

ARTICLE.

For Nelson's Encyclopedia.

July - 1906.

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No. 18, Vol.10.

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SUBJECT.

Scott, Winfield,

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July - 1908.

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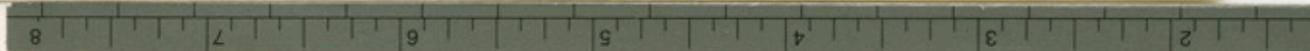
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WINFIELD SCOTT

for

NELSON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA.

July-----1906.

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WINFIELD SCOTT

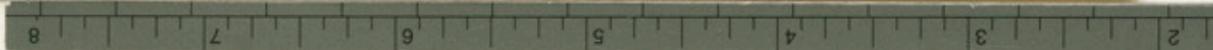
FOR

NELSON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

1858-1860

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*Copy  
of  
1858  
1860*



W I N F I E L D   S C O T T .

Winfield Scott, American Soldier, Born Dinwiddie County, Va., Jan. 13th, 1786. Died May 29th, 1866. Buried West Point, N.Y. His grandfather, James Scott, — followed Charles Stuart, the Pretender, was at Culloden *and* afterwards escap~~ed~~<sup>ed</sup> to Virginia. William, Jame's son, married Ann Mason. Winfield was their second son. His father, a Captain in the American Revolution, died when he was six. He lost his mother at seventeen, a woman of recognized strength of character. In subsequent life he attributed his attainments to her lessons.

Before College he was trained by Hargrave, a Quaker teacher, and by a Scotch instructor, James Ogilvie. He entered William and Mary, but left in 1805 to take up law in Judge David Robinson's office at Petersburg. Here he obtained license to practice and did circuit work, trying a number of cases. He attended Aaron Burr's trial. Expected English hostilities awakening his desire to become a soldier, President Jefferson, May 1808, gave him the commission of Captain of Artillery. He recruited and embarked with his Company to New Orleans, February 4th, 1809. Here his brother officers were in two factions, the larger number partisans of their commander, Gen. James Wilkinson.

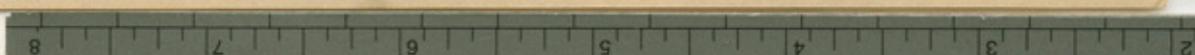
During this year Scott remarked that he believed Wilkinson as much a traitor as Burr. For this Scott was tried by court-martial and found guilty of disrespect. He was suspended from rank and pay for nine months. History exonerates Scott, still his remark infringed an article of war. During suspension Scott returned to Petersburg. Benjamin Watkins Leigh, his friend, influenced him to study hard, not neglecting military works.

1811 Scott rejoined the Army at Baton Rouge, where as Judge Advocate he strengthened his knowledge of military law, Spending his leisure, --preparing himself for the New Orleans bar; but the prospect of war

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Lieutenant Elliot (Navy) undertook to capture two British War Vessels near Fort Erie. Scott with two companies, -his first time under fire, - materially aided Elliot. One of the British Vessels was captured, the other was burned.

His first battle of importance was at "Queenstown Heights", occupied by British troops and Indians. The object of the Americans was to seize these Heights and hold them as an entering wedge into Canada. Lieut. Col. Scott, eagerly marched his command to Lewiston, but was restrained from crossing.

After severe American losses, Scott crossed and assumed command on reaching the Heights. The British being reinforced, the Americans were finally beaten and Scott in spite of his energy was forced to surrender.

The next year, after exchange, Scott became an Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff to General Dearborn, -commanding his own regiment in action. Dearborn determined to take Fort George below Queenstown; he had nearly 5000 men, including naval force. Scott, accompanying the advance, crossed the river, reaching the British about nine o'clock (May 27th, 1813). The action was decisive; Fort George taken; and the first move in the proposed campaign accomplished.

March 9th, 1814, Scott was promoted Brig-General, joining General Brown, en route from French Mills toward the Niagara Frontier. Brown left immediately for Sackett's Harbor, putting Scott in command near Buffalo. There he established a camp of instruction and did most effective work for the Army. For three months it was drill, evolution and discipline, using the modern French system with personal assiduity.

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In June, General Brown returned and July third, 1814, advanced. Scott's Brigade embarked, landing before the enemy's picket had fired a shot; and Fort Erie was taken. July 4th, Scott's Brigade again led towards Chippewa. General Brown gave Scott control, himself holding the reserves. The two forces faced each other July 5th, the British under General Riall, Scott broke Riall's front, put his command to flight, and won the battle of Chippewa. The American loss was 328; the British 507.

Twenty days later was the battle of Lundy's Lane. Against unexpected reinforcements Scott had the management. An impetuous leader, he lost two horses, was wounded through his side, and later severely in his left shoulder. He did not leave the front till the enemy's cannon were captured and the battle won. The Americans lost 860, the British 878.

Though so severely wounded Scott traveled East meeting enthusiastic receptions. At Princeton he received an A.M. degree. At Philadelphia Gov. Snyder met him with a Division. Declining the office of Secretary of War, President Madison next sent him abroad on important diplomatic service. He splendidly executed his trust.

He married Miss Maria <sup>D.</sup> <sup>S.</sup> <sup>11<sup>th</sup></sup> ~~Mayo~~ <sup>March</sup>, 1817. Their ~~children~~ <sup>children</sup> were, Virginia  
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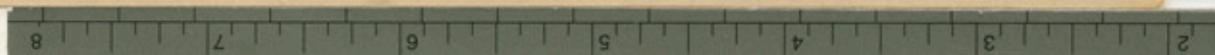
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General Scott after seeing West-Pointers in action showed himself a pronounced champion of the Military Academy; and commended the <sup>necessary</sup> discipline.

Near the close of the Black Hawk War, (1831) Scott was ordered to the scene of action, near Rock Island, Illinois. He embarked upon Lake Erie from Buffalo with a thousand troops. Asiatic Cholera, so fatal in Europe, reached this country. Nearly half the troops were stricken, only 400 well men remaining. Scott, though ill himself, visited every sick officer and soldier. "He was, "Not only a hero of battles, but a hero of humanity."

On arrival Scott held conferences with the Indians, the Sacs and Foxes and kindred clans. He uniformly won their confidence so as to make permanent treaties. He urged the whites to "temper justice with mercy in dealing with their feebler brethren of the forest."

In the nullification in South Carolina (1832), General Scott became the medium of conciliation and compromise. By his judiciousness he forestalled and prevented an outbreak.

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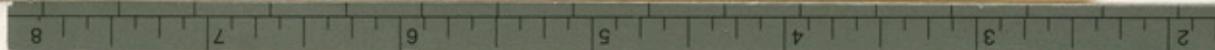
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Returning; at a complimentary supper in Albany, one of the toasts was, "Our guest, the invincible champion of our rights, the triumphant vindicator of our laws."

In 1839, there was a disputed district between New Brunswick and Maine. Gen. Scott was instructed to settle the trouble. At first the passion of war prevailed, but through kindness and tact he prevented an imminent outbreak and paved the way for the Ashburton Treaty.

Scott was commended for removing the Cherokees from Georgia and neighboring states beyond the Mississippi. Though averse to removal, they trusted this great Chief, and he accomplished their exit without suffering.

Scott was named to the Whig Convention of 1839 for the Presidency. He generously conceded the nomination to Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison. In all his political public writings Scott took the principles of Henry Clay for his model.

When the Mexican War began in 1846 Scott recommended Taylor for the Texan Frontier. He gave President Polk a plan of campaign, and asked for new regiments. The President at first disapproved everything Scott suggested, yet, after Taylor's success, on November 23rd, 1846, he ordered Scott to Mexico. Scott left New York November 30th with confidence and reached the Rio Grande early in January. Soon he found that the bill for new regiments <sup>was</sup> unaccountably delayed; and that he had hardly left Washington before another bill was introduced to establish the rank of Lieutenant General, and place at once a political partisan at the head of the Army. Concerting together, Scott and Taylor prosecuted the war. Scott left Taylor, after Buenna Vista, taking with him sufficient troops to give himself a column of 10,000 men. Scott landed and besieged Vera Cruz, which he captured. Then followed the successful battles and skir-

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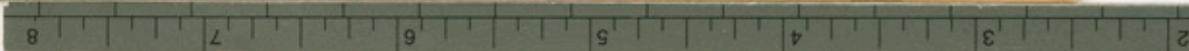
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1852 Scott was defeated by Franklin Pierce for the Presidency; 1855, Congress made him Brevet Lieutenant General. 1859, he was dispatched to the far northwest to adjust serious boundary troubles. Again, he was successful as a pacificator.

When the Civil War came he took his stand for the Union and did all that was in his power to secure the safety of the Capital. Nov. 1st, 1861, feeling too much the infirmities of age under increasing responsibility, he resigned his command.

Winfield Scott was six feet and five inches tall, and in his best days had great physical strength. He had a remarkably strong face, and was habitually dignified and reserved.

He was quick to resent insult, but as ready to forgive; and was very properly denominated a Christian gentleman.

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#### BIBLIOGRAPHY.

He published 'General Regulations for the Army' (1825) and 'Infantry Tactics' (1835). BIOGRAPHIES by Mansfield (1846), Headly (1852), Victor (1861), --Wright (1894) and 'Scott's Memoirs' 1864. 'Wilcox History of the Mexican War' (1892), Howard, 'General Taylor' (1892).

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