

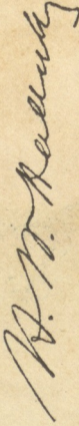
A SHORT HISTORY OF



GEN.  
H. W. HALLECK



Facsimile Signature of General H. W. Halleck,

A facsimile of the signature of General H. W. Halleck, written in a cursive script. The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, aged paper. It begins with a large, sweeping 'H' and ends with a long, horizontal flourish.

Our great Hero Album, containing pictures of the Generals and their histories  
will be ready March 1, 1889.

*History  
of  
General  
Henry W.  
Halleck.*

History

General

History of

Black

## *Henry W. Halleck.*

General Halleck was born in Westerville, N. Y., on January 16, 1815. He attended the Hudson Academy, and afterwards spent some time at Union College, although he never completed his course there; but entered the Military Academy at West Point, graduating from the latter in 1839. His record at the academy was of the very highest, and at the time of graduation he stood third in a class of 31. Immediately after graduation he was appointed second lieutenant in an engineer corps. His proficiency in the performance of the duties of engineer, as well as his thorough knowledge of all the details which concerned engineering work, soon secured for him consid-

erable reputation. He was sent on a tour of examination of public works in Europe, and while there was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant.

During his first years of engineering service he had prepared a report on the "Coast Defense," which was published by congress and attracted much favorable comment. Among others, the committee of the Lowell Institute, Boston, were struck by the ability shown by Halleck, and requested him to deliver twelve lectures. This he did, and the course was afterwards published in a volume entitled "Elements of Military Art and Science" (New York, 1846)—a work which was widely read, and republished in 1861 with new matter concerning the Crimean and Mexican Wars. This established General Halleck's reputation as a skilled and proficient soldier before

any opportunity had been afforded him of showing military tact or bravery on a field of battle.

Immediately on the opening of the Mexican War Halleck was sent as an engineer to the Pacific coast, and sailed under Captain Tompkins's artillery command on the *Lexington*. The vessel was seven months in reaching Monterey, Cal., by way of Cape Horn, and this time was spent by Halleck in preparing a translation of Baron Jomini's "Vie Politique et Militaire de Napoleon," which was published in four volumes (New York, 1864). Halleck occupied during his stay on the Pacific coast a number of positions, civil and military. He was engaged immediately on his arrival in fortifying Monterey as a port of refuge and a base for expeditions. He accompanied a number of expeditions into

California, acted for a time as aide-de-camp to Commodore Shubrick, and was lieutenant-governor of Mazatlan after its capture. He was also secretary of state in the military government which was first established on the coast; and when, after hostilities had somewhat abated, and it became necessary and possible to organize a more permanent and stable form of government, Halleck was a leading and important figure in the convention assembled to frame a constitution, and took an active and prominent part in all the deliberations. For his services, military and civil, he had been promoted to captain; and after the convention was over, and the transactions had ended in the organization of a State government—in which movement he was chiefly instrumental—Halleck acted as aide-de-camp



to General Riley, and served also as inspector and engineer of lighthouses on the Pacific coast, until his resignation from the army in August, 1854.

In 1850 he had been elected director-general of the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine, and on leaving the army he retained this position, also practicing law and preparing a number of books, chiefly of a legal character, including: "A Collection of Mining Laws of Spain and Mexico" (1859); "International Law, or Rules Regulating the Intercourse of States in Peace and War (1861); also a translation of "De Fooz on the Law of Mines" (1860). A few months after his resignation from the army he was also elected president of the Pacific and Atlantic Railroad. Honors due his ability as a soldier, scholar and author were showered upon him.

There was no other officer in the United States service who possessed merits of so widely diverse a character. His military and civil duties were discharged in the most highly commendable manner, and he displayed an amount of intelligence in all his work which few other officers possessed. He had in every case prepared his books in the interest of his profession, and their publication had not only largely benefited his military and legal associates, but had secured for him a widespread reputation as a scholar. He received from Union College the degree of A.M. in 1843 and LL.D. in 1863, and in 1848 he was offered the professorship of engineering in the scientific school at Harvard—an offer which he declined.

He continued the practice of law in San Francisco until the opening of the Civil War, and

at that time he was one of the most prominent and successful lawyers of the West. He was recommended by General Winfield Scott to the president as being able to fill the highest military position with credit, and accordingly, on his volunteering his services, he was appointed major-general by Mr. Lincoln. He left a prosperous position to accept this commission, and in devoting himself to the country's cause it was at a large sacrifice of personal interests. On November 18, 1861, he assumed command of the Department of the Missouri, which comprised the States of Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Arkansas, and Western Kentucky. The state of affairs at that time has been thus described: "Around him was a chaos of insubordination, inefficiency, and speculation, requiring the prompt,

energetic, and ceaseless exercise of his iron will, military knowledge, and administrative powers. The scattered forces of his command were a medley of almost every nationality. Missouri and Kentucky were practically but a border screen to cover the operations of the seceding South; and even his headquarters at St. Louis, fortified at exorbitant cost and in violation of all true engineering principles, neither protected the city from insurrection within nor from besiegers without." But a few weeks had passed before General Halleck had entirely altered this distressing condition of affairs. After removing all those abusing their power, pruning out and suppressing those who manifested sympathy for the South, he reorganized his command rapidly and with remarkable judg-

ment, repaired the weak points of defense, and then turned his attention to the Confederate forces under General Price, whom he defeated several times successively, and in a few weeks compelled him to retreat to Arkansas, thus clearing all that region of the hostile element.

Then came the general movement of the Northern forces ordered by the president to begin on February 22, 1862, and Halleck early in that month prepared to set in motion the armies under his command on the Mississippi, Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. Before three months had transpired, General Grant, assisted by Commodore Foote's fleet of gunboats, had captured Forts Henry and Donelson, and gained possession of Nashville; while General Curtis, who was dispatched in pursuit of the Confederate

army in Missouri, pushed the enemy into Arkansas, fought successfully the battle of Pea Ridge, and drove the Confederate force before him to the White River. In this manner the first line of the Confederate defense was broken, and they were forced back on their second line, which extended from Memphis to Chattanooga. In order to move with greater unity, the departments of Kansas and Ohio were placed also under Halleck's command on March 11, 1862, and the whole was called the Department of the Mississippi, and included everything between the Alleghany and Rocky Mountains. General Buell was ordered to unite with General Grant, and together they moved against Shiloh, securing the great victory at that place on April 6 and 7.

After this battle General

Halleck assumed command of all the various armies, and advanced slowly upon Corinth. He acted at this time with an amount of caution which gave rise to considerable criticism. He was accused severely and unfairly for exercising an amount of deliberation which he conscientiously considered at the time most necessary. In gaining the next step, he realized acutely the importance of holding securely the ground already obtained, and of not risking by rash haste the loss of all. On May 30 he was in possession of Corinth; but the enemy had been permitted to evacuate the city and largely destroy its defenses.

Memphis was now to be made the base of operations. General Pope was sent in pursuit of the enemy, General Buell was sent to Chattanooga to restore the railroad connec-

tions, and General Sherman was ordered to Memphis. While Halleck was at Corinth, he was ordered to Washington and made general-in-chief of all the armies of the North.

His command thus far had been distinguished for brilliant movements and repeated successes, and had secured for him the highest commendation of the War Department. It was in his new and higher command, however, that he was especially assailed by envious and disappointed schemers. Mistakes he may have made—for so have all commanders—but he was thoroughly undeserving of the criticism to which he was subjected. He acted in all things with a warm feeling of loyalty to the Union and with a view to the best interests of the cause he had at heart. After the glorious campaigns of Vicksburg and Chattanooga General Grant was appointed lieutenant-general of all the armies, the rank being specially revived for him.

Although General Halleck was requested to remain in discharge of his functions, he said with justice that nothing but the name was left him,



and that General Grant, being higher in rank, must necessarily be the commander-in-chief. Halleck continued in service, however, and acted as chief of staff of the army, and between April and July, 1865, commanded the Military Division of the James.

After the war General Halleck was assigned to the Military Division of the Pacific. He remained in this command until March, 1869, when he was transferred to the Division of the South, retaining the latter position until his death, which occurred at Louisville on January 9, 1872. Since his death he has been several times severely criticised, but all his unjust accusers have been ably refuted.

Halleck was a man of surpassing ability, who, by the exercise of superior qualities of mind and character, raised himself to a position which entitled him to the respect of all his countrymen; and it is to be regretted that, in the clashing of petty selfish interests, his reputation should have suffered so severely.

and that General Grant, being  
higher in rank than any  
other, he the commanding  
officer. He took command of  
the army and was  
in charge of the army and  
commanded the army in  
the field.

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General Grant was a man of  
great ability who by the  
aid of his superior abilities  
of mind and courage  
commanded a position  
of great honor to the  
credit of his country and  
to the honor of the  
army of the United States  
and the world.

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