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Hancock the Superb: The Life and Career of General Winfield Scott Hancock

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*Includes pictures of Hancock and important people, places, and events in his life.
*Includes battle maps of Gettysburg, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and more.
*Includes a Bibliography for further reading.

"General Hancock is one of the handsomest men in the United States Army. He is tall in stature, robust in figure, with movements of easy dignity…In action…dignity gives way to activity; his features become animated, his voice loud, his eyes are on fire, his blood kindles, and his bearing is that of a man carried away by passion – the character of his bravery" – Regis de Trobriand

Winfield Scott Hancock was an intimidating figure who impressed friends, foes, and fellow generals alike. Known as Hancock the Superb after McClellan described his performance as such during the Battle of Williamsburg in the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, Hancock eventually rose to become the Army of the Potomac's greatest corps commander. Though his reputation and legacy gradually faded over time, Hancock was one of the North's foremost war heroes by the end of the war, and he nearly became president in 1880 when he was just barely defeated by a less decorated Civil War veteran, James Garfield.

Nobody in the Army of the Potomac was in the thick of its biggest battles as often as Hancock and the men he commanded. Hancock superbly led his brigade during the Peninsula Campaign, temporarily commanded a division at Antietam in the center of the lines at the Sunken Lane, and his division was the last to withdraw across the river during the Battle of Chancellorsville.

After the Battle of Chancellorsville, he fortuitously became the new II Corps commander in the Army of the Potomac, just in time to deliver his greatest performance of all. At Gettysburg, Hancock was the commanding general in the field on Day 1, as Meade and the rest of the Union army arrived later that night. On Day 2, Hancock's men assisted Sickles' III Corps when Sickles disobeyed orders and moved it forward, creating a gap in the Union lines. And on Day 3, Hancock's greatest day of the war, he was seriously injured and nearly bled to death while leading his men in their decisive repulse of Pickett's Charge.

Hancock's injury was excruciatingly painful, but he was back in command for the 1864 Overland Campaign, where his men played crucial roles in the Battle of the Wilderness, the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, and the Battle of Cold Harbor. By the end of the Civil War, Hancock was one of the highest regarded generals in the North.

Like Confederate corps commander James Longstreet, Hancock's reputation was attacked after the war because of politics. His Northern brethren were critical of his opposition to the execution of Mary Surratt for the Lincoln assassination, they were enraged when he was lenient on the Southern military district he governed during Reconstruction, and the final straw came when he ran as a Democrat in 1880.

It would take nearly another century before Hancock's reputation and legacy were revived by Michael Sharaa's Killer Angels, a historical fiction about the Battle of Gettysburg that examined the friendship between Hancock and Confederate General Lewis Armistead, who was mortally wounded by Hancock's men during Pickett's Charge. By the time Ken Burns' Civil War documentary had renwed interest in Gettysburg and the Civil War, Hancock was as popular as ever.

Hancock the Superb: The Life and Career of General Winfield Scott Hancock chronicles the life and career of one of the Union's most indispensable generals, humanizing the courageous and fiery man who was respected and admired by his men and his superiors alike. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events in his life, you will learn about Winfield Scott Hancock like you never have before, in no time at

all.

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