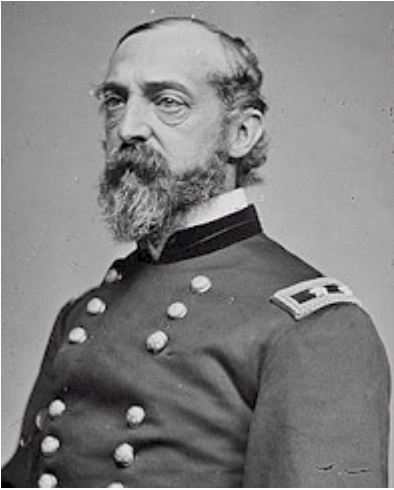


**George Gordon Meade**  
(1815-1872)



## **GEORGE GORDON MEADE, MAJOR GENERAL U.S.A.**

I was born of American parents in Spain in 1815 while my father was serving there as the American Consul. After my father's tour of duty, I returned to Philadelphia. I graduated in the class of 1835 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. After a year of service in Florida fighting Seminoles, I resigned to pursue a career in civil engineering and coastal survey.

In 1842, I was awarded a commission in the Corps of Topographical Engineers. During the Mexican War I was assigned to the staff of General Zachary Taylor. I was in a number of battles, and in 1847 was relieved of duty to resume his civilian engineering.

When the Civil War broke out, I was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers. I was severely wounded in the Peninsula Campaign of 1862. I recovered in a short time and returned to lead the men in the Second Battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, and Antietam. As a reward for his gallantry, I was promoted to command the Fifth Corps. I led General Hooker's assault at Chancellorsville in May, 1863. In 1865 I oversaw the disbanding of his army. In the post-war period I was called upon to soothe the transition to peace in Canada and the South. I was active in civic affairs in Philadelphia.

I was described with these words "...scientist, inventor, scholar, warrior, diplomat, gentleman of highest virtue, a true patriot, and hero of his country." I died in 1872 from the effects of his severe wound received ten years before.