

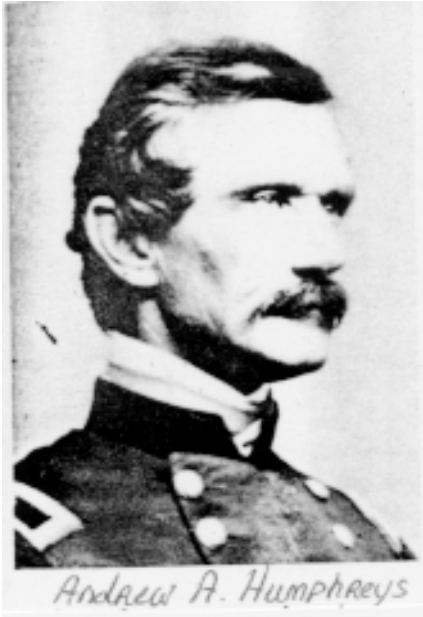
Maj. Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys

(2 Nov 1810 – 27 Dec 1883)

Humphreys. December 27, 1883, Andrew A. Humphreys, Major General, United States Army. Funeral services will take place from his residence, 1224 Connecticut avenue, at 2 o'clock p.m., Wednesday, January 2, 1884. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

The Evening Star, December 31, 1883

The Funeral of Major General Andrew A. Humphreys will take place from his late residence, No. 1224



Connecticut avenue, at 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday. The pallbearers will be Gen. H.G. Wright, Col. Thomas L. Casey, Gen. J.G. Parke, Gen. O.M. Poe, Gen. R.C. Dunn, Gen. H.L. Abbot, Gen. W.H. Emory, Rear Admiral Alex. Murray, Mr. W.J. Warren, Mr. Wm. Lee, Hon. Theodore Lyman, Mr. Thomas J. Lee, Mr. Archibald Campbell, Gen. H.G. Hunt and Col. P.H. Allbach. Rev. Dr. Paret, of the Church of the Epiphany will perform the ceremony, and there will be no military display.

The Evening Star, January 2, 1884

Funeral of Gen. Humphreys

Services at the Home of the Deceased this Afternoon

In accordance with the wishes of the family, the funeral of General A.A. Humphreys was without military display. The services were held at the house, 1224 Connecticut avenue, at 2 o'clock this afternoon, Rev. Dr. Paret, of the Church of the Epiphany officiating. The Secretary of War, Mr. W.W. Corcoran, and all army officers in

the city, together with their families and many other prominent people were present to pay their tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased. The remains were taken to the Congressional cemetery. The pallbearers were Gen. H.C. Wright, Col. Thomas L. Casey, Gen. J.C. Parke, Gen. O.M. Poe, Gen. R.C. Dunn, Gen. H.L. Abbot, Gen. W.H. Emory, Rear Admiral Alex Murray, Mr. W.J. Warren, Mr. Wm. Lee, Hon. Theodore Lyman, Mr. Thomas J. Lee, Mr. Archibald Campbell, Gen. H.G. Hunt, Col. P.H. Albach, and Gen. Alvord.

The Evening Star, January 11, 1884

Gen. Humphreys' Will

The last will of the late Gen. A.A. Humphreys, U.S.A., filed yesterday, leaves to his son Henry the sword and belt presented to the deceased by the citizens of Philadelphia, Pa., on July 4, 1866, and his entire estate to his widow, Rebecca H. Humphreys, with the request that after her death it be disposed of as follows among their children: To Letitia A. Humphreys, lot 50, square 139, with the house, furniture, carriages, etc., and all the United States four percent bonds and Philadelphia city six percent bonds owned by the deceased; to Henry H. Humphreys, the Pont Reading estate, Delaware county, Pa., its furniture, silver and chinaware, and all the shares of the stock of the Lykens Valley Railroad and Coal company standing in the name of the deceased; to Charles Humphreys all the seven percent second mortgage bonds of the Lehigh Valley Railroad and Coal Co., all the shares of stock of the Philadelphia

Corn Exchange National Bank, in the name of the deceased, and the share of the deceased in his father's estate when it may be divided.

Dictionary of American Biography

Humphreys, Andrew Atkinson (Nov. 2, 1810 - Dec. 27, 1883)

Engineer, scientist, soldier, the son of Samuel and Letitia (Atkinson) Humphreys, was born in Philadelphia. His grandfather, Joshua Humphreys, was an eminent ship-builder who during the administration of Washington designed the first large warships for the United States Navy. His father was chief constructor of the navy from 1826 until his death in 1846. His grandfather on his mother's side was Andrew Atkinson, an officer of the British navy who settled in Florida in 1784. Humphreys entered the United States Military Academy in 1827 and on graduation in 1831 was commissioned a lieutenant in the artillery. As such he took part in the Seminole War in Florida in 1836. After this campaign he resigned his commission to follow the profession of engineering. He became a civil engineer under the Topographical Engineers of the army and was engaged in 1837 and 1838 on plans for the Delaware River fortifications and harbor works. This led to his appointment as lieutenant in the Corps of Topographical Engineers when it was increased in 1838. In 1844, at the request of Alexander Dallas Bache, the superintendent, he was assigned to duty in the Coast Survey and served under its distinguished head for six years. He was commissioned captain in 1848.

In 1850, at the request of the chief of his corps, he was relieved from duty in the Coast Survey to take charge of the topographic and hydrographic survey of the delta of the Mississippi River, which had just been authorized by Congress. He took charge of this work in October 1850 and carried it on with his accustomed energy until he was disabled by a sunstroke in the summer of 1851. The work was temporarily suspended, and as soon as he was able to do so he was given authority to visit Europe to study the methods of improvement of the deltas of European rivers. He returned to the United States in 1854, but before resuming work on the Mississippi was directed by the Secretary of War to take charge of the explorations and surveys ordered by Congress "to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railway from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. His report, submitted in the latter part of 1855 (Senate Executive Document 78 and House Executive Document 91, 33 Cong., 2 Sess.) described five practicable routes which are substantially the routes of the five of the present transcontinental railroads. In 1857 his work on the Mississippi River was renewed, in association with Lieut. Henry L. Abbot [q.v.], and was continued until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. The Report upon the Physics and Hydraulics of the Mississippi River (1861), submitted by Humphreys and Abbot, was so valuable a contribution to the knowledge of the hydraulics of great rivers that it was translated into foreign languages and permanently established the reputation of its authors as investigators, scientists, and engineers of a high order. It formed the basis for the flood control and the improvement of the navigation of the great river.

In the latter part of 1861, with the rank of major, Humphreys was appointed to the staff of General McClellan. He rendered valuable service in the Peninsular campaign as brigadier general of volunteers and chief of the Topographical Engineers. During the Antietam campaign he commanded a division of new troops assigned to the V Corps. In the battle of Fredericksburg he led this division in a desperate attack on Marye Hill for which he received the brevet of colonel, United States Army. After the battle of Chancellorsville he was assigned to the command of a division of the III Corps and in the battle of Gettysburg fought it with great skill in resisting Longstreet's attack on the afternoon of July 2. For this service he received the brevet of brigadier-general, United States Army. After the Gettysburg campaign, at General Meade's earnest request, he accepted the position of chief of staff of the Army of the Potomac with the rank of major-general, which position he held until November 1864 when he was

selected by General Grant to command the II Corps. In the final campaign he won the brevet of major-general, United States Army, in the battle of Sailor's Creek. In 1866 he was appointed chief of the Corps of Engineers with the rank of brigadier-general, United States Army, and in that capacity he served until his retirement in 1879; he also served as consulting engineer for several civil projects. After his retirement he wrote "From Gettysburg to the Rapidan" (1883) and "The Virginia Campaign of '64 and '65" (1885), which have been generally accepted as among the most reliable works on these campaigns.

As a scientist, Humphreys was a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an incorporator of the National Academy of Sciences, and an honorary or corresponding member of societies in Austria, France, and Italy. Harvard University conferred on him the degree of LL.D. His associate, Gen. Henry L. Abbot, said of him (National Academy of Sciences, Biographical Memoirs, pp. 210-14) that, as a soldier, "to courage of the brightest order, both moral and physical, he united the energy decision and intellectual power which characterized him in civil administration . . . In official relations . . . [he] was dignified, self-possessed and courteous. His decisions were based on full consideration of the subject, and once rendered were final. . . . In his social relations . . . [he] exerted a personal magnetism which can hardly be expressed in words." In 1839 he married his cousin, Rebecca Hollingsworth, by whom he had two sons and two daughters.

[H.H. Humphreys, "Maj. Gen. Andrew Atkinson Humphreys" (1896) and "Andrew Atkinson Humphreys" (1924); memoirs by H.L. Abbot in Nat. Acad. Sci. Biog. Memoirs, vol. II (1886), Fifteenth Ann. Reunion Asso. Grads, U.S. Mil. Acad. (1884), and Science, Apr. 18, 1884; H.L. Carson in Proc. Am. Phil. Soc., vol. XXII (1885); Proc. Am. Acad. Arts and Sci., n.s., vol. XI (1884); J.W. De Peyster, in Mag. Of Am. Hist., Oct. 1886; Frederick Humphreys, "The Humphreys Family in America" (1883); G.W. Cullum, Biog. Reg. (3rd ed., 1891); "War of the Rebellion: Official Records (Army); Army and Navy Jour., Dec. 29, 1883, Jan. 5, 1884; Evening Star (Washington, D.C.), Dec. 28, 1883]

Cullum. Biographical Register of U.S. Military Academy

Class of 1831: Andrew A. Humphreys

Born and appointed Pennsylvania, Ranked 13th of 33
Cadet at the Military Academy, July 1, 1827, to July 1, 1831, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to Bvt. 2d Lieut. and 2d Lieut., 2d Artillery, July 1, 1831.

Served: in garrison at Ft. Moultrie, S.C., 1831; on Special duty, making drawings at the Military Academy, Jan. 5 to April 18, 1832; in the Cherokee Nation, 1832-33; in garrison at Augusta Arsenal, Ga., 1833,--at Ft. Marion, Fla., 1833-34; on Topographical duty, August 22, 1834 to Dec. 31, 1835, making Surveys in West Florida and at Cape Cod, Mass.; in the Florida War against the Seminole Indians, 1836, being engaged in the Action of Olokikaha, March 31, 1836,--and Action near Micanopy, June 9, 1836. Resigned, Sept. 30, 1836.

Civil History--Civil Engineer in the Service of the United States, assisting Major Bache on plans of Brandywine Shoal Light-house and Crow Shoal Breakwater, Delaware Bay, 1836-38.

Re-appointed in the U.S. Army with the rank of 1st Lieut., Corps of Top. Engineers, July 7, 1838.

Served: in charge of works for the improvement of Chicago harbor, Ill., 1839; as Asst. Top. Engineer of Survey of Oswego harbor defenses, N.Y., 1839; in charge of Survey of Whitehall harbor, N.Y., 1839; as Assistant in the Topographical Bureau at Washington, D.C., 1842-44; as Assistant in charge of the Coast Survey Office, at Washington, D.C., 1844-49, and on Survey in the field, 1849-50; in making Topographic and Hydrographic Survey of the Delta of the Mississippi River, with a view to its protection from inundation, and deepening the channels at its mouth, 1850-51, continuing in general charge of the work, and preparing, in conjunction with Lieut. Abbot, his voluminous report thereon, till 1861; on sick leave of absence, 1851-53; in Europe, examining means for protecting Delta Rivers from inundation, 1853-54; in general charge, under the War Department, of the Office duties at Washington, D.C., connected with

the Explorations and Surveys for Railroads from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, and Geographical Explorations west of the Mississippi, 1854-61; as Member of the Light-house Board, April 24, 1856 to April 5, 1862,--of the Board "to revise the Program of Instruction at the U.S. Military Academy," January 12 to April 24, 1860,--and of the Commission, created by Act of Congress of June 21, 1860, "to examine into the Organization, System of Discipline, and Course of Instruction at the U.S. Military Academy," July 18 to December 18, 1860.

Served during the Rebellion of the Seceding States, 1861-66; on the Staff of Major General McClellan, General-in-Chief, at Washington, D.C., December 1, 1861 to March 5, 1862; in the Virginia Peninsular Campaign, as Chief Top. Engineer of the Army of the Potomac, March 5 to August 31, 1862, being engaged in the Siege of Yorktown, April 5 to May 4, 1862,--Battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862,--in Movements and Operations before Richmond and to the James River, May to June, 1862,--and Battle of Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862; in command of division of new troops at Washington, D.C., Sept. 1862; in the Maryland Campaign (Army of the Potomac), Sept. to Nov. 1862, being engaged in covering Frederick, Sept. 16, 1862,--Pursuit of enemy from Antietam, Sept. 18, 1862,--Reconnaissance in Shenandoah Valley, Oct. 16-17, 1862,--and March to Falmouth, Va., Oct. to Nov., 1862; in the Rappahannock Campaign (Army of the Potomac), Dec. 1862-June, 1863, being engaged in the Battle of Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, 1862,--and Battle of Chancellorsville, May 2-4, 1863; in the Pennsylvania Campaign (Army of the Potomac), June-July 1863, being engaged in the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863; as Chief of Staff of Major General Meade, commanding Army of the Potomac, July 8, 1863 to Nov. 25, 1864, being engaged in the Action of Manassas Gap, July 23, 1863,--the Rapidan Operations, Oct.-Nov. 1863, including the Actions of Oct. 12 and Nov. 7, 1863, on the Rappahannock, and Combat of Bristoe Station, Oct. 14, 1863,--Operations of Mine Run, Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 1863,--Action of the Rapidan, Feb. 6, 1864,--Battle of the Wilderness, May 5-6, 1864,--Battles around Spottsylvania, May 9-20, 1864--Battles of North Anna, May 23-26, 1864,--Battles of the Toloptymy, May 28-30, 1864,--Battles of Cold Harbor, June 1-3, 1864,--Assaults of Petersburg, June 16-18, and July 30 (Mine), 1864,--Battles of the Weldon Railroad, Aug. 18-25, 1864,--Action of Peeble's Farm, Sept. 30, 1864,--and Action of Boydton Planroad, Oct. 27, 1864; in command of Second Army Corps, Nov. 25, 1864 to June 27, 1865, being engaged in the Siege of Petersburg till its fall, April 3, 1865, including the Actions of Hatcher's Run, Feb. 4-6, 1865, and the almost daily attacks on the enemy's works, March 24 to April 3, 1865,--and Pursuit of General Lee's Rebel Army (including the several Actions of the Second Corps, April 6, 1865, terminating at Sailor's Creek, and Actions at High Bridge and Farmville, April 7, 1865), till its surrender, April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House; on march to and at Washington, D.C., April 10 to June 27, 1865; in command of the District of Pennsylvania, in Middle Department, July 28 to Dec. 9, 1865; in charge of the examination of the Mississippi Levees, Dec. 9, 1865 to Aug. 8, 1866.

Mustered out of the Volunteer Service, August 31, 1866.

Served: in command of the Corps of Engineers, and in charge of Engineer Bureau, at Washington, D.C., August 8, 1866 to June 30, 1879; and as Member of the Light-house Board, Feb. 20, 1870 to Jan. 1874,--of Commission to examine into Canal Routes across the Isthmus connecting North and South America, 1872-77,--of Board of Washington and Georgetown Harbor Improvements, 1872-73; of Revising Board for Bulkhead and Pier Line, of Brooklyn, May 1872 to June 30, 1879,--of Staten Island, Aug. 1875 to June 30, 1879,--and Hudson River (Troy to Hudson), June 18, 1877 to June 30, 1879; of Board for Survey of Baltimore harbor and adjacent waters, May 1876 to June 30, 1879,--of Washington Monument Commission, Jan. 1877 to June 30, 1879,--of Advisory Board to Massachusetts Harbor Commissioners, Jan. 1877 to June 30, 1879,--and of examining Board of Moline Water Power Company contracts, April 10 to June 13, 1877.

Retired from Active Service, June 30, 1879 at his own request, he having served over 40 years.

Civil History--Member of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa., 1857,--and of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa., 1857,--and of the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences, Boston, Mass., 1863. Corporator of the National Academy of Sciences, March 3, 1863 to Dec. 27, 1883. Honorary Member of the Imperial Royal Institute of Science and Art of Lombardy, Milan, Italy, 1864. Author of the "History of the Virginia Campaign of 1864-65;" and "From Gettysburg to the Rapidan," 1882. Degree of LL.D. conferred by Harvard University, 1865.

Died Dec. 27, 1883 at Washington, D.C., aged 73.

Ranks:

Bvt. 2d Lieut. and 2d Lieut., 2d Artillery, July 1, 1831

1st Lieut., 2d Artillery, August 16, 1836

1st Lieut., Corps of Top. Engineers, July 7, 1838

Captain, Corps of Top. Engineers, May 31, 1848

Major, Corps of Top. Engineers, August 6, 1861

Col., Staff--Additional Aide-de-Camp, March 5, 1862

Brig. Gen., U.S. Volunteers, April 28, 1862

Bvt. Col., December 13, 1862 for Gallant and Meritorious Services at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.

Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers, March 3, 1863

Major General, U.S. Volunteers, July 8, 1863

Bvt. Brig. Gen., U.S. Army, March 13, 1865 for Gallant and Meritorious Services at the Battle of Gettysburg, Pa.

Bvt. Maj. Gen., U.S. Army, March 13, 1865 for Gallant and Meritorious Services at the Battle of Sailor's Creek, Va.

Mustered out of the Volunteer Service, August 31, 1865

Brig. Gen. and Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army, August 8, 1866

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bvt. Maj. Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys was born, Nov. 2, 1810 at Philadelphia, Pa. His grandfather and father were naval architects, and both became Chiefs of the Construction Bureau, U.S. Navy. The former made the plans upon which were built "Old Ironsides" and her five sister frigates, which so proudly bore the stars and stripes to many victories in the War of 1812-15 against Great Britain.

Young Humphreys entered the Military Academy before he was seventeen years old, and graduated therefrom July 1, 1831. After a short service in the artillery, during which he was engaged in the actions of Oloklikaha and Micanopy against the Seminole Indians in the Florida War, he resigned from the Army, Sept. 30, 1836, to become a Civil Engineer, under Major Bache, in the construction of a Light-house and Breakwater in Delaware Bay.

Upon the organization of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, he was appointed to rank as one of its First Lieutenants from July 7, 1838, and for six years was engaged in the duties of that branch of services.

Lieut. Humphreys, upon the application of Professor Alex. D. Bache, was detailed in 1844, as his assistant in the Coast Survey Office, where his responsible duties became so laborious that his health gave way, compelling his relief at the end of five years.

In 1850, Capt. Humphreys was directed to make a Topographic and Hydrographic Survey of the Delta of the Mississippi River, with a view to its protection from inundation, and deepening the channels at its mouth. This required much careful study; the measurement of numerous cross sections and volume of discharge of the river; the determination of the extent of floods, and how to lessen their effects; ascertaining the amount of riparian abrasions, and quantity and kind of sedimentary matter carried down; investigating every safe method of deepening the channel bars; and the solution of many vexed hydraulic problems which constantly presented themselves. His arduous labors of research and supervision were suddenly suspended in the summer of 1851 by a sunstroke. When partially recovered,

he was permitted to visit Europe to study the deltas of its great rivers, and how they were protected by engineers against inundation's.

Humphreys returned from abroad in 1854, when a new labor confronted him,--the supervision of surveys of routes to the Pacific, and making the needful investigations of their comparative merits, with estimates of cost of railways by each. Lieut. Abbot, his assistant, says of his chief's grasp of this subject: "His mind worked like a beautiful machine, neglecting nothing, forgetting nothing, and so rapidly bringing order out of chaos that the work took shape visibly from day to day. The preliminary report was completed before Congress adjourned; and subsequent experience has amply confirmed the correctness of his conclusion and the wisdom of his recommendations."

The voluminous report on the Mississippi Delta Survey, which had been continued under Capt. Humphreys' direction by his assistant, Lieut. Abbot, was published by Congress in 1861, and such was its scientific value that it has been translated into most of the languages of Europe, for it is truly a mine for the hydraulic engineer.

In 1856, Humphreys, in addition to his many other duties, was made a Member of the Light-house Board, upon which he served ten years, but not continuously.

On the outbreak of the Rebellion, though Humphreys had proved himself a most meritorious officer, he was distrusted by those in power because of his intimacy with Jefferson Davis, under whom he had served when U.S. Secretary of War, and who had now become President of the Confederate States. However, in December 1861, Humphreys was assigned to duty with the Army of the Potomac, in which by his brilliant soldierly qualities he rose from an Aide-de-Camp to be the head of an Army Corps, with the rank of Major General. Filling every position in which he was placed--as Engineer, Chief of Staff, Division or Corps Commander, and serving in nearly every battle from Yorktown, in 1862 to Appomattox, in 1865--he came out of the war with a reputation for gallantry, sound judgment, patriotic endeavor, and meritorious conduct rivaled by few and surpassed by one. At the desperate storming of Marye Heights, leading like a champion knight his command on this bloody field of Fredericksburg; in resolutely defending the exposed salient on the left of the line of battle at Gettysburg; and in the unremitting attack and pursuit of Lee's army to Appomattox, C.H.--Humphreys displayed the intrepidity of a New and the cool self-reliance of a Massena. "To courage of the brightest order, both moral and physical, he united the energy, decision and intellectual power which characterized him in civil administration. These traits joined to a thorough knowledge of strategy and grand tactics, fitted him for the highest military responsibilities."

The Civil War, in which Humphreys received three brevets for "meritorious services," being ended, he was further rewarded Aug. 6, 1866, by the appointment of Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army. In this position, for thirteen years, he exhibited high administrative abilities, and, with the cooperation of his able corps of officers, successfully conducted the operations on the numerous military and civil works under charge of the Engineer Department. Upon his own application he was retired, June 30, 1879, from active service in the Army, only to begin a new labor of faithfully recording the great deeds of the Army of the Potomac in the memorable campaigns of 1863, 1864, and 1865, of which he might have said "magna pars fui."

Humphreys was a member of several learned societies at home and abroad; received, in 1865, the degree of LL.D. from Harvard University; and was one of the fifty original Corporators of the National Academy of Sciences.

As a subordinate officer, Humphreys was prompt in the performance of every duty, zealous and laborious in carrying out the orders of his superiors, and untiring in effort till his work was accomplished; and as a chief, though doing his full share of an allotted task, was generous in awarding the mead of praise to all under him. To his assistant, Lieut. Abbot, on the Mississippi Delta Survey, he accorded equal credit with himself by associating his name in the authorship of the able report thereon; and to all who won glory at his side on the battlefield he unstintingly assigned their full desert. It was this sense of

justice and magnanimity which insured their confidence, affection, and highest efforts. Hence, as a general, he had the earnest support of his whole command, which, united to his own magnetic leadership, undaunted gallantry, loyalty of purpose, and skill in handling masses, made his army corps almost irresistible.

General Abbot, who, from his entrance into service, was most intimate with Humphreys till he died, Dec. 27, 1883, a period of nearly thirty years, says of his departed friend:--

“In official relations General Humphreys was dignified, self-possessed, and courteous. His decisions were based on full consideration of the subject, and once rendered were final. He had a profound contempt for everything which resembled double-dealing or cowardice. He scorned the arts of time-servers and demagogues, and when confronted with meanness took no pains to conceal his indignation, no matter what might be the rank or position of the offender. He felt the warmest personal interest in the success of his young associates, and often did acts of kindness of which they learned the results but not the source.

“In his social relations General Humphreys exerted a personal magnetism which can hardly be expressed in words. His manners were marked by all the graceful courtesy of the old school, while the unaffected simplicity and modesty of his character and the force and vigor of his ideas left an impression not easily effaced. He was a gentleman by nature, not merely by artificial polish, and no one could be thrown much in his society without recognizing the fact.”