



GENERAL JOHN FULTON REYNOLDS



As Portrayed by Ron Teague

A career United States officer, and one of the Union Army's most respected senior commanders, Reynolds played a key role in committing the Army of the Potomac to the Battle of Gettysburg and was killed at the very start of the battle.

Reynolds was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1820, one of nine surviving children. Graduating from West Point in 1841, he was assigned to various posts in Florida and South Carolina, before joining Zachary Taylor's army for the Mexican-American War. He was awarded two brevet promotions in Mexico. During the Mexican War, Reynolds became friends with fellow officers Winfield Scott Hancock and Lewis Armistead.

In 1856, Reynolds participated in the Rogue River Wars of 1856 and the Utah War with the Mormons in 1857-58. He was the Commandant of Cadets at West Point from September 1860 to June 1861, while also serving as an instructor of artillery, cavalry, and infantry tactics.

Soon after the start of the Civil War, Reynolds was offered the position as aide-de-camp to General Winfield Scott, but declined. Promoted to brigadier general in August 1861, Reynolds was given command of a brigade and then a division of Pennsylvania Reserves. His commands provided excellent service during the Seven Days Battles, Second Battle of Bull Run, and the Battle of Fredericksburg. Reynolds was promoted to Major General after Fredericksburg. During the Battle of Chancellorsville, Reynolds' I Corps was not engaged. Reynolds joined several of his fellow officers in urging that Hooker be replaced, in the same way he had spoken out against Ambrose Burnside after Fredericksburg.

President Abraham Lincoln met with Reynolds in a private interview on June 2, 1863 and is

believed to have asked him whether he would consider being the next commander of the Army of the Potomac. Reynolds supposedly replied that he would be willing to accept only if he were given a free hand and could be isolated from political influences. Unable to comply with his demands, Lincoln promoted the more junior George G. Meade to replace Hooker on June 28th.

On the morning of July 1, 1863, Reynolds was commanding the "left wing" of the Army of the Potomac, with operational control over the I, III, and XI Corps, and Brig. Gen. John Buford's cavalry division. Buford occupied the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and set up light defensive lines north and west of the town. He resisted the approach of two Confederate infantry brigades on the Chambersburg Pike until the nearest Union infantry, Reynolds' I Corps, began to arrive.

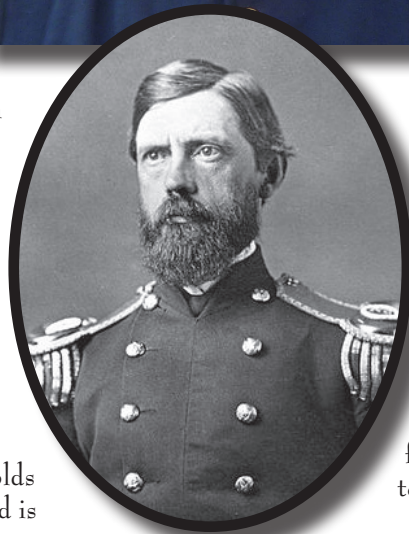
Reynolds rode out ahead and met with Buford, and then accompanied some of his soldiers, from Brig. Gen. Cutler's brigade, into the fighting at Herbst's Woods.

Troops began arriving from Brig. Gen. Meredith's Iron Brigade, and as Reynolds was supervising the placement of the 2nd Wisconsin, he fell from his horse with a wound in the back of the neck, and died almost instantly. Command passed to his senior division commander, Maj. Gen.

Abner Doubleday.

The loss of General Reynolds was keenly felt by the army. He was loved by his men and respected by his peers. His death had a more immediate effect that day, however. By ratifying Gen. Buford's defensive plan and engaging his I Corps infantry, Reynolds essentially selected the location for the Battle of Gettysburg for Gen. Meade.

Reynolds' body was immediately transported from Gettysburg to Taneytown, MD, and then to his birthplace, Lancaster, PA, where he was buried on July 4, 1863.



General Reynolds is portrayed by Ron Teague.