

CW/VFM-64: *George Gordon Meade*

Letters; 24 December 1866 to Prof. Stoever, Pennsylvania College; 16 August 1866 to Nicholson. 2 ALS, 2 pages

Meade was born in Cadiz, Spain the eighth of eleven children; his family returned to the United States when he was teenager. He entered West Point in 1831, and graduated 19th in his class in 1835. After serving for a year, he resigned from the army and began working as a civil engineer for the Alabama, Georgia, and Florida Railroad. He reentered the army as a second lieutenant in the corps of topographical engineers, and he served in the Mexican-American War during which he was brevetted to first lieutenant.

A few months after the outbreak of the Civil War, he was promoted from captain to brigadier general (8/31/1861) and given command of the 2nd Brigade of the Pennsylvania Reserves. On June 28, 1863, he was informed that Lincoln wanted to promote him to Commander of the Army of the Potomac. He was in command during the Battle of Gettysburg. During his time in command, he established a reputation with the men as having a very bad temper. Unfortunately for his post-war reputation, he was no politician and thus history does not always look as kindly on him as it should. After the war he became the commissioner of Fairmount Park until he died. He also held various administrative military positions.

Letter from Meade to Prof. M.L. Stoever of Pennsylvania College:

12/24/1866-Meade wrote a letter to a professor at Pennsylvania (Gettysburg) College expressing his regret over the fact that he hasn't had much of a chance to visit the college since it has such a strong connection with the Battle of Gettysburg.

Original document: 1pp.

Typed copy: 1pp.

Letter from Meade to a Mr. Nicholson:

8/16/1866-Meade wrote to Mr. Nicholson telling him that he left his *Comte de Paris* in his home. He apologizes for the fact that his handwriting is illegible, but made note of certain passages. He received a copy of the A&N Register, which he found that certain important names were missing; Slocum and Hancock are the two he mentioned in the letter.

Original document: 1pp.

Typed copy: 1pp.

Keywords: Union – East - Pennsylvania; Letters; Army – Infantry; Soldiers – Generals; Gettysburg – College;

Location: Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

See also: [Civil War Sources in Special Collections](#)