

General Henry Jackson Hunt



As Portrayed By Jim Zartman



Henry Jackson Hunt, Commander of the Artillery, Army of the Potomac was born September 14, 1819 in Detroit, Michigan. Following his family's military background, Henry graduated from West Point in 1839. In 1856 he wrote "Instructions for Field Artillery" with William Barry and William French, which was published by the War Department in 1861. This manual became the bible of northern artillerists during the Civil War.

General Hunt's served under General Winfield Scott during the Mexican War. Next, he fought in the First Battle of Antietam, in which he covered the retreat of a union force with a close-in artillery duel. He served under General McClellan from March through July 1862 in the Peninsular Campaign. Other campaigns included Second Battle of Antietam, September 1862; Battle of Fredericksburg,

December 1862; Battle of Chancellorsville, May 1863; and the Battle of

Gettysburg, July 1863, in which his strategically placed cannons shattered Pickett's Charge and decided the outcome of the most significant battle in American history. In 1864 he effectively managed the siege operations at Petersburg.

After the war, Hunt served at numerous administrative posts during Reconstruction in the occupied South. He was widely regarded as the nation's foremost artillery authority, and at his

death in 1889 was recognized as one of the finest tacticians and military theorists ever to wear an American uniform.

Even the Confederates admired General Hunt – a rebel general once boasted, "Give me Confederate infantry and Union artillery, and I will whip the world."



Jim Zartman is a retired CPA and college professor and a certified artillery gunner by the National Civil War Artillery Association. He resides in Hanover, PA, site of a preliminary Civil War skirmish on June 30, 1863.