



CHRONICLE OF THE  
**AZTEC CLUB OF 1847**  
Military Society of the Mexican War

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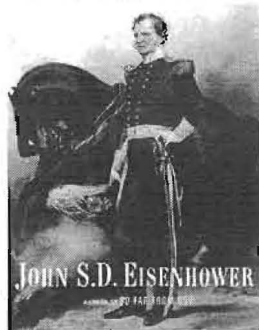
Our 154<sup>TH</sup> Year

Editor: Rick Breithaupt

## Agent of Destiny

AGENT of DESTINY

The LIFE and TIMES of GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT



### The Life and Times of Winfield Scott

By BGEN John S. D. Eisenhower, USAR (Ret.)  
The Free Press, New York, New York, 1997  
465 Pages - \$27.50

**Reviewed by**

**Capt. Thomas J. Turpin, USN (Ret.)**

As the fly leaf of the jacket of this book states: "Thanks to John Eisenhower's scrupulous research and penetrating portraiture, we can at last give this founding father of the military his due". To that, this reviewer would add that in writing such an excellent account, the author has added significantly to his previously acquired laurels as an historian, biographer and expert analyst of military tactics, earned by his other works.

Because he was retired from the U.S. Army at his own request due to ill health and age (75) in October 1861, Winfield Scott's role in the civil war was relatively minor and his astonishing contributions to his country were obscured by the events that followed in that crucial event in our history. Agent of Destiny does much to review and refresh in our memory the accomplishments of Scott which, viewed in modern context, are truly amazing.

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## ANNUAL MEETING SET

### Army and Navy Club

### October 13, 2001

The 154<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meeting of the Aztec Club of 1847 will be held at The Army and Navy Club, 901 17<sup>TH</sup> Street N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006 on Saturday evening, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The business meeting will commence at 6:00 pm followed by a reception at 7:00 pm and banquet dinner at 8:00 pm. [White tie, black tie, mess dress or uniform, with decorations.] Spouses and invited guests are welcome.



The first Army and Navy Club building erected in 1891; inset is Klotz's Hajbrahaus, the Club's first home.

A landmark for more than a century on the Washington scene, the Army and Navy Club prides itself in being a town club of distinction. Formed by military officers and former officers in 1885, the Club is located at Farragut Square, a short walk from the White House. Since the day it first opened its doors the Army and Navy Club has been a host to history and to those who make history.

The Army and Navy Club traces its beginnings to December 1885 when seven officers — all Army, Navy and Marine Corps veterans of the Mexican and Civil wars — met to form the United Service Club. In 1891 the Club was reincorporated as The Army and Navy Club, and on October 15, 1891 the Board of Governors held its first meeting. Almost 100 years later, the Club reopened in its present location and was formally dedicated by President Ronald W. Reagan on January 12, 1988. The Aztec Club has a tradition of association with the Army and Navy Club that began 90 years ago. Its annual meeting and dinner was held at the original Army & Navy Club building in 1912-1915, 1918, 1919, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1950-1957, and 1965.



Since its beginning, The Army and Navy Club has been the home away from home for the most illustrious names in America's political and military history. More than 80 Club members have appeared on the cover of Time magazine. Many familiar faces from the pages of history books line the grand halls of the Club, where honor and achievement are proud traditions. The membership rolls include one of the first men to land on the moon, the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic, participants in the first around-the-world flight, as well as Presidents, Vice Presidents, members of Congress, cabinet officials and many others. It is, as noted in *The Washington Times*, truly a "haven for heroes." Cost for the dinner is \$50.00 per person. Reservations are required and must be received by the Treasurer on the enclosed form with payment not later than Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. Checks payable: Aztec Club of 1847.

## Members Elected Since The Last Issue

### **Charles Ray Cresap**

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Edward Otho Cresap Ord  
3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery, USA

### **Robert James Devine**

Col. Francis David Wyncoop  
1<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers

### **Jack Jones Early**

Maj. Jubal Anderson Early  
1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Volunteers

### **James Ward Frazee, Sr.**

Capt. Seth Brett Thornton  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons, USA

### **Danny Joe Hereford**

Lt. Daniel Brown Hereford  
2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Volunteers

### **Michael Whetstone Innes**

Capt. Charles Henry Innes  
Co. K, 2<sup>nd</sup> New York Volunteers

### **Karl Frederick Schaeffer**

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Simon Snyder Fahnestock  
4<sup>th</sup> Artillery, USA

### **George Beattie Stoneman**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George Stoneman  
Co. D, 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons, USA

### **Joseph Buckner Sullivan**

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Hubbard Taylor Buckner  
Co. D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Kentucky Infantry

### **John Bradford Williamson**

Maj. Alexander Blackburn Bradford  
Co. I, 1<sup>st</sup> Mississippi Infantry



### **MGEN Donald C. Hilbert To Speak at Annual Dinner**

Maj. Gen. Donald C. Hilbert, USA (Ret.), Director of the U. S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, will speak at the Aztec Club's Annual

Dinner on October 13. Formerly Commanding General, Military District of Washington, Gen. Hilbert will speak about the Home, its founder, Winfield Scott, and the most important element of the Home, its Residents.

**The Aztec Club web site is a featured site of The History Channel . . . and was recently named by Military.com as one of the best military sites on the Internet.**

*Agent of Destiny* - Continued from Page 1

Scott's story begins in 1786 near Dinwiddie Courthouse, Virginia, the son of a Scottish lawyer who had served as a captain in the American Revolution. In the years that followed Scott served as a general officer in the U.S. Army for 52 years, under 14 presidents, having being breveted to major general in 1817 at age 31. He was captured by the British in the Battle of Queenstown in 1812, wounded in 1814 at the Battle of Lundy's Lane and emerged a national hero at the end of hostilities in 1814. Because of his forceful personality he had made many political enemies however, not the least of which was Andrew Jackson. This unfortunate trait would follow him throughout his career. He participated in the Blackhawk War of 1831, the Seminole Wars, conquered Mexico in 1847, and was General-in-Chief of the Army at the outbreak of the Civil War.



The author devotes nine chapters to the 1847 War with Mexico, including the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry at Frederick, Maryland in June of 1848, following cessation of hostilities.

In addition to BGEN Eisenhower's notable skills in recounting military history, he provides fascinating accounts of political events during Scott's life as well. The attributes that served Scott so well as a general officer apparently had a less advantageous effect on

his political career, for he was soundly defeated in 1852 in his run for the presidency, the last candidate ever produced by the Whig Party.

Eisenhower accurately describes Winfield Scott as the first truly professional American soldier and the founding father of the United States Army. Although this accomplishment is in itself unique, the author makes a case for an even greater contribution to his country by this patriot, which in the opinion of this reviewer, places him second only to George Washington in military prominence and which provides ample evidence that Scott was an Agent of Destiny:

"Scott was the agent, throughout 40 years, both for the consolidation of the nation as a single unity and for its expansion. As a general he was not the architect; it was James Madison who attempted unsuccessfully to annex Canada in 1812; it was Andrew Jackson who decided that the Indians east of the Mississippi must be moved to western lands; it was John Tyler who eventually settled the dispute with Britain over the border between Maine and New Brunswick, Canada. James K. Polk was the architect who settled most of the boundary question between the United States and Canada in 1845 - and who manipulated the War with Mexico that expanded the nation into the Southwest. James Buchanan decided to compromise with Britain over possession of San Juan Island in Puget Sound. For each of these presidents, however, the agent, the builder in contrast to the architect, was Winfield Scott."

**Ed. Note:** Winfield Scott was an original member of the Aztec Club, and a member of the Society of the Cincinnati (1841-PA). Two other Generals-in-Chief, also members of the Aztec Club, were members of the Society of the Cincinnati: Club Vice President Ulysses S. Grant (1864-NY) and William Tecumseh Sherman (1879-NY).



# G. T. Beauregard Letter to Winfield Scott Hancock Anticipated Meeting at 1880 Aztec Club Dinner

Born at Saint Bernard Parish, below New Orleans, Louisiana to a family of great local influence, Beauregard graduated from West Point second in the Class of 1838. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Artillery, July 1, 1838 and later that month, July 7, 1838, was transferred to the Corps of Engineers. As he began his career at West Point he dropped the hyphen between Toutant and Beauregard and by the 1840's had dropped his given name entirely, thereafter known as Gustave Toutant Beauregard. In 1845 he explained the change:

"...was merely for the sake of brevity, my name being rather a long one I endeavored to shorten it as much as possible."

In the War with Mexico, he was engaged in the construction of the defenses at Tampico, 1846-1847; the Siege of Vera Cruz; the Reconnaissance and Battle of Cerro Gordo; Reconnaissance of the Pedregal; Battle of Contreras; and Battle of Churubusco. He was breveted to Captain, August 20, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the Battles of Contreras and Churubusco.

Beauregard was involved in the Reconnaissance of the approaches to the City of Mexico; the Battle of Chapultepec; and the Assault and Capture of the City of Mexico, where he was wounded in storming the "Causeway Battery", and again near the Belen Gate. He was breveted to Major, September 13, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct at Chapultepec.

Being a Louisiana native, he resigned his

Federal Army commission to serve in the Confederacy and was commissioned a full General to rank from July 21, 1861, making him junior only to Samuel Cooper, Albert Sydney Johnston, Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston.

He was second in command to General A. S. Johnston at the

Battle of Shiloh and assumed command of the Army of Tennessee when Johnston was killed.

Following two years of duty in the Indian Territory, on June 18, 1846 Winfield Scott Hancock was promoted to Second Lieutenant. He served in Mexico during 1847-1848, being engaged in the defense of convoy at the National Bridge, Skirmish at Plan del Rio, Capture of San Antonio, and Battle of Churubusco. He was breveted to 1st Lieutenant on August 20, 1847 for gallant and meritorious conduct in the Battles of Contreras and Churubusco. Hancock was also engaged in Battle at Molina del Rey and the Assault and Capture of Mexico City.

Hancock served in the Defense of Washington, D. C., in 1861-1862; in the Virginia Peninsular Campaign (Army of the Potomac), being engaged in the Siege of Yorktown, the Battle of Williamsburg, Battle of Chickahominy, Action of Golding's Farm, Battle of Savage Station, Battle of White Oak Swamp, and Retreat to Harrison's Landing; in the Maryland Campaign (Army of the Potomac), September to

November, 1862, being engaged in the Battle of Crampton's Pass, South Mountain, Battle of Antietam, Reconnaissance from Harper's Ferry to Charlestown, VA, and March to Falmouth, VA. In the course of the Battle of Sharpsburg, Hancock succeeded to the command of the 1st Division of the II Corps after the mortal wounding of Gen. Israel E. Richardson. He was breveted Major-General, U. S. Volunteers, November 29, 1862.



Hancock was next in the Rappahannock Campaign (Army of the Potomac), December, 1862 to June, 1863, being engaged in battle at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville; and in the Pennsylvania Campaign commanding II Corps of the Army of the Potomac, at Gettysburg, where he was severely wounded in the repulse of Longstreet's attack upon the left center which at the time was under Hancock's command. His employment of a skirmish line consisting of a man every three yards, which successfully resisted a series of heavy Confederate attacks, came to be regarded a classic maneuver of defensive warfare.

Hancock commanded the II Corps in the Richmond Campaign, being engaged in the Battle of the Wilderness, Battles of Spottsylvania, Battle of North Anna, Battle of Tolopotomy, Battle of Cold Harbor, March to James River, and Battle before

Petersburg. Following sick leave due to infection of his Gettysburg wound, he was in command of the II Corps, Army of the Potomac, engaged in the Battles of Deep Bottom, Battle of Reams's Station, Battle of Boydton Plank Road, and Siege of Petersburg. Both Hancock and his Corps were conspicuous in the desperate fighting which marked Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's advance on Petersburg. He was promoted to Brigadier-General, U. S. Army, August 12, 1864, and breveted Major-General, U. S. Army, March 13, 1865 for gallant and meritorious services at the Battle of Spottsylvania, VA. Following the Civil War, Hancock continued in service. He was promoted to Major-General, U. S. Army, on July 26, 1866.

Following his retirement from the Presidency in 1876, Ulysses S. Grant traveled abroad for two years and in 1880 was a leading contender for the Presidency once again but a coalition of Grant's opponents agreed upon James A. Garfield. That same year, his friend Winfield Scott Hancock was nominated for the Presidency by the Democratic Party meeting at Cincinnati. Running against James A. Garfield, Hancock lost by a narrow margin.

Beauregard and Hancock participated in several of the Aztec Club's activities. In this recently discovered letter, he writes to a longtime friend, Winfield Scott Hancock, and anticipates the upcoming Aztec Club dinner to be held at Philadelphia on September 14, 1880. Hancock served as Vice President of the Aztec Club, 1879-1881, and as President, 1881-1885. In 1881 Ulysses S. Grant was among those who attended the Aztec Club's historic meeting in Philadelphia where he was elected Vice President of the Club, announcing his intention to become President in 1885. Beauregard writes:

"My Dear General: Allow me the pleasure of introducing to you my friends from New Orleans, F. P. Porcher, of the Supreme Court of Louisiana and Gen. W. J. Beckham, Commanding the Louisiana State guard. They are two distinguished Democrats of our state and any statements coming from them can be relied upon as

GRAND UNION HOTEL  
Saratoga Springs.  
HENRY CLAIR, LESSEE.

*Sept 10th 1880*

*My Dear General -*  
*Allow me the pleasure of*  
*introducing to you two of my*  
*friends from New Orleans*  
*Judge F. P. Porcher of the Supreme*  
*Court of La. & Gen. W. J. B.*  
*Beckham, commanding the La.*  
*State Guard of the 1st Mil. Dist.*  
*They are two distinguished heads*  
*of our State & any*  
*statements coming from them*  
*can be relied upon as correct.*  
*Hoping to have the pleasure*  
*of meeting with you in Phila*  
*at the Aztec Club Dinner on the*  
*14th inst. I remain*  
*Your Friend*  
*G. T. Beauregard*  
*Gen. W. S. Hancock*  
*de de - Governor La. N. O.*

correct. Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting with you in Philadelphia at the Aztec Club Dinner on the 14th instant. I remain, Your Friend -- G. T. Beauregard."

[Collection of Richard Breithaupt, Jr.]

# AZTEC CLUB AT VERSAILLES



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES, 19 May 2001 — More than half of the Aztec Club's membership are also members of the Society of the Cincinnati. Those gathered at the Cincinnati's 2001 Triennial, shown here at the Versailles Palace, are, from the first row, left: Raymond L. Drake; Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.; John H. Napier; John O'Malley; Richard B. Abell; back row: Philip R. Livingston; Thomas J. Turpin; William W. Huss, Jr.; Henry L. P. Beckwith and Thomas P. Curtis.

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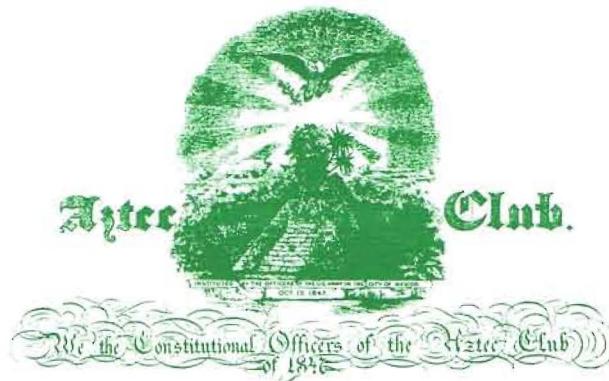
Ties are made of finest silk in Aztec Club colors.

### SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY AVAILABLE

Sesquicentennial History \$ 89.95 + \$10 .00 shipping

Printed on acid-free paper, hardbound, with gold foil embossing and handsome dust jacket. 1505 pages. ISBN: 1886085056.

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**Founded by the Officers of the U. S. Army  
Mexico City — October 13, 1847**