

BURNSIDE, AMBROSE EVERETT

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BURNSIDE, AMBROSE EVERETT, born near Liberty, Union County, Indiana, May 23, 1824; son of Edghill and Pamela (Brown) Burnside; attended a seminary at Liberty and Beach Grove Academy; was apprenticed to a merchant tailor and after learning the trade opened a shop at Liberty; married Mary Richmond Bishop (1828-1878) at Providence, Rhode Island, April 27, 1852.

Appointed Cadet, U. S. Military Academy, 1843; graduated and promoted Brevet 2nd Lieutenant, 2nd U. S. Artillery, July 1, 1847; promoted 2nd Lieutenant, 3rd U. S. Artillery, September 8, 1847 and went to the City of Mexico in command of recruits at the close of the Mexican War; in garrison at Fort Adams, Rhode Island, 1848-49; on frontier duty with "Bragg's Battery" at Las Vegas, N.M., 1849-50; on May 22, 1850, he buried in a common grave the bodies of ten Americans who had been murdered and stripped over two weeks before near Wagon Mound, N.M., by Apache and Ute Indians; with 29 mounted men he charged a band of about 60 Jicarilla Apaches near Las Vegas, N.M., and, in a running fight for over 9 miles, killed about 20 of them and captured three prisoners; in this action he was wounded by an arrow just below the ear, August 23, 1850; in garrison at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, 1850-51.

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Reported to Lietenant Colonel J. D. Graham at San Antonio, Texas, May 10, 1851, and was assigned to duty as **Quartermaster** and Commissary in connection with the U. S.-Mexico Boundary Survey; after a journey of 30 days arrived at El Paso del Norte, June 24 and joined the Boundary Commission at Santa Rita del Cobre, N.M., July 9, 1851; a dispute having arisen between Colonel Graham and J. R. Bartlett, the American Boundary Commissioner, the Colonel selected Burnside as the bearer of dispatches which gave his version of the difficulty; left the Copper Mines August 17, 1851. with an escort of three ^{one of whom was his faithful Negro servant,} men and traveled via the Santa Fe Trail to Fort Leavenworth and thence on to Washington where he arrived in the remarkable time of 31 days; promoted 1st Lietenant, 3rd U.S. Artillery, December 12, 1851.

While in ^{the Army} ~~the Army~~, finding the Cavalry Carbine unsuited to Indian warfare, he invented a breech-loading rifle and resigned on October 2, 1853, to engage in its manufacture at Bristol, Rhode Island; although recommended as the best suited for military service by two boards of officers the War Department would not award him a contract so that he was compelled to give up the business and assign his patents to his creditors in 1858; Major General, Rhode Island Militia, 1855-57; Democratic candidate for Congress, 1856; Cashier, Land Department, Illinois Central

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Railroad Company, 1858-59, and Treasurer of that Company, 1860-61.

Appointed Colonel, 1st Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry May 2, 1861, and commanded a brigade in the battle of Bull Run; promoted, Brigadier General, U. S. Volunteers, August 6, 1861; engaged in the capture of Roanoke Island, North Carolina, February 7-8, 1862, and in testimony of his services there received a Sword of Honor from the State of Rhode Island; promoted Major General of Volunteers and placed in Command of the 9th Army Corps; in command of the Army of the Potomac November 10, 1862 to June 26, 1863; participated in numerous engagements during the Civil War including the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness, and the siege of Petersburg; received the thanks Of Congress for "gallantry, good conduct, and soldierlike endurance" by resolution of January 28, 1864; resigned his commission, April 15, 1865.

Upon his return to civil life he became engaged in railroad and steamship transportation enterprises; elected three times Governor and Captain-General of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1866-67-68; visited Europe in 1870 and was admitted within both the German and French lines in

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and around Paris, acting as a means of communication between the belligerents; elected, as a Republican, United States Senator from Rhode Island and served from March 4, 1875, until his death; died at Bristol, Bristol County, Rhode Island, September 13, 1881, aged 57; interment in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence, Rhode Island; Burnside Post No. 36 (2), Grand Army of the Republic, Tombstone, A.T., 1882-1901, was named for him.

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The returns of the 3d U.S. Artillery show Lieutenant
Ambrose E. Burnside on leave since Dec. 24, 1850. On
Mexican Boundary Commission by S.O. 40 Headquarters of
the Army. April 1, 1851. (At that date his company
was stationed at Fort Adams, R. I.)

He joined his company at Fort Adams March 28,
1852 from detached service.