

PARKE, JOHN GRUBB

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PARKE, JOHN GRUBB, born near Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1827; son of Francis and Sarah (Gardner) Parke; married Ellen Blight of Philadelphia, June 5, 1867.

Attended Crawford's Preparatory Academy and the University of Pennsylvania; Cadet, U.S. Military Academy, 1845-49; Brevet 2d Lieutenant, U.S. Topographical Engineers, July 1, 1849; Assistant Topographical Engineer, boundary survey between Iowa and Minnesota, 1849-50; in the Department of New Mexico, including survey of the Little Colorado River, 1851-52.

In charge of survey for Pacific Railroad, 1853-56; author of "Report of Explorations near the 32d Parallel of Latitude, Lying between Dona Ana, on the Rio Grande, and the Pimas Villages on the Gila," 1855 (H. Ex. Doc. 129, 33d Cong., 2d Sess., 1857); promoted 2d Lieutenant, April 8, 1854 and 1st Lieutenant July 1, 1856; Chief Astronomer and Surveyor, locating boundary between the United States and the British Provinces, 1857-61.

Promoted Captain, Corps of Engineers, September 9, 1861; Brigadier General of Volunteers, November 23, 1861; engaged in Combat of Roanoke Island, February 7, 1862; Battle of Newbern, March 4, 1862; Brevet, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, for gallant and meritorious service at the capture of Fort Macon, April 26, 1862.

Major General of Volunteers, July 18, 1862; Chief of Staff, Army of the Potomac, September, 1862 to January, 1863; engaged in the Battles of South Mountain, Antietam and Fredericksburg; in command of 9th Corps in movement through Kentucky to the Siege of Vicksburg and was present at its surrender, July 4, 1863; Brevet Colonel, U.S. Army, for gallant and meritorious service in the capture of Jackson, Mississippi, July 12, 1863; promoted Major, Corps of Engineers, June 17, 1864.

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Brevet Brigadier General, U.S. Army, for gallant and meritorious service in the defense of Knoxville, November-December, 1863; in movement of 9th Corps to Virginia and engaged in Battles of the Wilderness, around Spotsylvania, the siege of Petersburg, 1864-65; pursuit of Confederates under General Robert E. Lee until his surrender at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865; in command of the District of Alexandria, Virginia, May to July, 1865, and of the Southern District of New York, July 28, 1865.

Mustered out of volunteer service, January 15, 1866; resumed duty on survey of Northwest Boundary and in charge of river and harbor and coast defense projects, 1866-68; Assistant Chief of Engineers, June 1, 1868; promoted Lieutenant Colonel, Engineer Corps, March 4, 1879, and Colonel, March 17, 1884; appointed Superintendent, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, August, 1887; retired at his own request after 40 years' service, July 2, 1889.

Engaged in business in Washington, D.C., and was Director of the Washington & Georgetown Street Railway Company and the National Safe Deposit Company; President of the Society of the Army of the Potomac; died at Washington, December 16, 1900; buried in the Cemetery of the Church of St. James the Less, Philadelphia.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Rebellion Records, Series 1, vol. 9, 12, 18, 19, 21-25, 30-34, 36, 38, 40-42, 45-52, Series 2, vol. 1, 5, Series 3, vol. 2-5.
 Cullum, G.W. - Biographical Register, U.S. Military Academy, Boston, 1891, No. 1408.
 Heitman, F.B. - Dictionary, U.S. Army, 1903, p. 768.
 Powell, W.H. - Records of Living Officers, U.S. Army, Philadelphia, 1890, p. 443.
 Bancroft, H.H. - History of Arizona and New Mexico, S.F., 1889, pp. 481-483.
 Appletons Cyclopaedia of American Biography, N.Y., 1888, vol. 4, p. 649, (portrait).