

CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHY.

MEN OF MARK

OF

CUMBERLAND VALLEY, PA.

1776—1876.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
FULTON PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1876.

## BREVET MAJOR GEN. WASHINGTON L. ELLIOTT, U. S. A.



THE subject of this sketch, son of Commodore Jesse D. Elliott, U. S. N., was born at Carlisle, Pa., March 31st, 1825. He was a student at Dickinson College until June, 1841, when he was appointed a cadet to the United States Military Academy. Commissioned Second Lieutenant of a mounted Rifle Regiment, May 27th, 1846, he served in Mexico during part of the war, and was promoted to a first Lietenancy, July 20th, 1847.

From May, 1849, until October, 1851, Lieutenant Elliott served at Fort Laramie on the Oregon Route. From February, 1852, until January, 1856, he was on duty in Texas, having been promoted Captain, July 20th, 1854, and from October, 1856, until November, 1860, he was on duty in New Mexico. During the past eleven years he has been engaged in service among the Indians, having had several skirmishes and fights with the Camanches, Kiowas, several tribes of Apaches and Navajoes.

In April, 1861, Captain Elliott was engaged in the muster into service of volunteers of the state of New York, at Elmira. From June to September, in the same year, he was on duty with the command of General Nathaniel Lyon, in southwest Missouri. In September, 1861, he was commissioned as Colonel of the Second Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, and in November of the same year, Major of the First United States Cavalry.

Major Elliott participated in the operations of General Pope's Army at New Madrid and Island No. 10, in March and April, 1862. In the following month he participated in the siege of Corinth, Miss., in command of Second Brigade, Cavalry Division, Army of the Mississippi, composed of Second Iowa and Second Michigan Cavalry; he made the first cavalry raid of the Rebellion, on the communications of General Beauregard, south of Corinth, near Booneville, Miss., destroying a large amount of Rebel property, and cutting off, for the use of our own army, a large number of locomotives and cars. June 11th, 1862, he was promoted Brigadier General of volunteers, and participated in the second battle of Bull Run, as Chief of Cavalry, Army of Virginia, in which battle he was slightly wounded. In September and October, 1862, he was assigned to the duty of organizing cavalry for protection of the frontiers of Nebraska and Dakota.

In March, 1863, General Elliott was assigned to the command of a Brigade in Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and left at Maryland Heights to evacuate that place and remove property to Washington, D. C. On the completion of this work, he was assigned to the command of Third Division, Third Corps, Army of the Potomac. October, 1863, he was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland, commanded by Major General George H. Thomas, and assigned to the command of the cavalry of that army, consisting of four divisions. He participated in the operations in east Tennessee, for the relief of General Burnside, at Knoxville, during the winter of 1863-4; also in the campaign from May to September, 1864, resulting in the capture of Atlanta, December 2d, 1864. He was assigned to the command of Second Division, Fourth Army Corps, of the Army of the Cumberland, and participated in the battles of Nashville, December 15th and 16th, 1864, under command of General George H. Thomas, for which he was brevetted Major General.

August 31st, 1866, he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel, First United States Cavalry, and served in Oregon, Washington and Idaho Territories. During the Rebellion he served under the following Generals, from each of whom he received complimentary letters and recommendations to the War Department, viz: Majors General Pope, Rosecrans, Schenck, French, Thomas, together with endorsement of the latter by General W. T. Sherman. He is now in charge of Benicia Barracks, California.

Such is a succinct record of the public life of General Elliott. His steady advancement to higher positions is all the evidence that is needed that his career has been one eminently honourable to himself, gratifying to his friends, and creditable to his native valley.