

General Joshua Blackwood Howell

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JOSHUA BLACKWOOD HOWELL, son of Joshua Ladd and Anna (Blackwood) Howell, born September 11, 1806, in Deptford (now West Deptford) township, Gloucester County, N.J., died September 14, 1864, near Petersburg, Va. He received his education at the Woodbury Academy, in Woodbury, and in Philadelphia, and later studied law with Richard C. Wood of that city, being admitted to the Bar in 1828, and commenced the practice of his profession the same year at Uniontown, Fayette county, Pa., where he continued in active practice until 1861: In that year he entered the Union army, being commissioned Colonel of the 85th Pennsylvania Volunteers, November 12, 1861. He was promoted to Brigadier-General of Volunteers September 12, 1864, having been for some time in actual command of a brigade. He enjoyed his new honors but two days, when he met with an accidental death on September 14, 1864. In the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of Monday, September 19, 1864, appears a letter dated "In the Field," September 15, 1864, giving the following account of the death of General Howell:

A very great calamity befel the Tenth Army Corps last night, in the sudden and lamentable death of Brigadier-General JOSHUA B. HOWELL, commanding a brigade in Major-General A. H. TERRY'S division. The circumstances were as follows: - Shortly after dinner Gen. HOWELL proposed to mount his horse and ride to a point somewhat distant from his quarters. He had only succeeded in gaining his position on his horse, which was exceedingly uneasy on the bit, when the general unfortunately grasping the wrong rein, the horse suddenly careered and fell backward, falling wholly on the person of the deceased, where he remained. His orderly at once rushed to the general's rescue, and with much exertion got his prostrate form from beneath the vicious animal. Being borne to his quarters he was found to be insensible, and did not rally to the last. He died in the evening, and his embalmed body is now on its way to his Pennsylvania home. General Howell was one of the most courteous and decorous of that great body of old school gentlemen, who, from thirty years ago, onwards, illustrated social and political life in this country. Did time afford me that opportunity, I should delight to recount his love for and absolute devotion to his noble boys, whom he invariably called "his sons." He was a pure patriot and enlightened statesman in civil affairs, while as a military man he was of exhaustless ability, great bravery, and would, I know, preferred to have met death on the field of glorious battle. It was, otherwise ordered, and the country and the army have lost both a brilliant son and a devoted servant.

Alfred Howell was appointed administrator of the estate, December 21, 1864; he is since deceased. Gen. Howell's funeral took place at the Presbyterian church in Woodbury, N.J., on Friday, September 23, 1864, and his remains were buried in that churchyard. General Howell married first, April 7, 1831, Mary Lewis, of Philadelphia, daughter of Reeve and Rachel (Thomas) Lewis; she died in 1852, leaving one daughter, Anna Blackwood Howell, born August 24, 1836, who married D. Shriver Stewart, of

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Washington. D.C. He married second, October 15, 1854, Katharine Whiteley, of Delaware, who died about 1899 or 1900, leaving one daughter, Mary Lewis Howell, who married Lieut. Albert Scott, of the United States Regular Army. General Howell's father and Governor Richard Howell of New Jersey, were warm personal friends, but they could never trace any relationship, although they were said to have been very anxious and made every effort to do so. Gen. Howell was elected Corresponding Member of the Society May 7, 1846.