

WOOL, John Ellis, soldier, b. in Newburg, N. Y., 20 Feb., 1784; d. in Troy, N. Y., 10 Nov., 1869. His father was a soldier of the Revolution. The son was educated at the common schools of his native town, and, after a short experience in mercantile life in Troy, began the study of the law, at which he was engaged when war with England was declared. He entered the military service as an officer of volunteers, raised a company in Troy, was commissioned captain in the 13th U. S. infantry, 14 April, 1812, and greatly distinguished himself at Queenstown Heights, 13 Oct., 1812, where he was severely wounded. He was promoted major of the 29th infantry, 13 April, 1813, and at Plattsburg on 11 Sept., 1814, he received the brevet of lieutenant-colonel for gallantry. Maj. Wool was transferred to the 6th infantry, 17 May, 1815, and in the subsequent reorganization was made inspector-general of the army, with rank of colonel, 29 April, 1816. The routine of his duty was varied in 1832 by a professional tour abroad, comprising an inspection of the military establishments of Europe for the benefit of the U. S. service. In 1836 he effected the transfer of the Cherokee Indians to the country west of the Mississippi, and on 25 June, 1841, he was appointed brigadier-



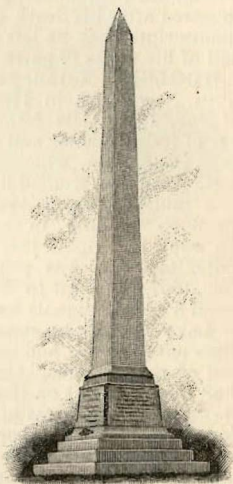
John E. Wool.

general in the U. S. army. He was active at the beginning of the Mexican war in preparing volunteer forces for the field, and in less than six weeks despatched to the seat of war 12,000 men, fully armed and equipped. He was Gen. Zachary Taylor's second in command at Buena Vista, selecting the ground for the action, making the preliminary dispositions, and commanding on the field till the arrival of his superior. For gallant and meritorious conduct in that battle he was brevetted major-general, 23 Feb., 1847. For his services during the war with Mexico congress awarded him a vote of

thanks and a sword of honor, and a sword was also presented to Gen. Wool by the state of New York. He commanded the eastern military division in 1848-'53, and the Department of the Pacific in 1854-'7, putting an end to Indian disturbances in Washington and Oregon territories in 1856 by a three-months' campaign. He had charge of the Department of the East in 1860, and at the opening of the civil war saved Fortress Monroe by timely re-enforcements, afterward commanding there at the head of the Department of Virginia. He was promoted major-general, U. S. army, 16 May, 1862, and had charge successively of the middle military department and the Department of the East till July, 1863. He was retired from active service, 1 Aug., 1863. Gen. Wool was a rigid disciplinarian, and had no superior in the U. S. service as an organizer of troops.

The monument shown in the illustration was raised to his memory in Troy. It is 75 feet high, and bears the following inscription from the pen of William Cullen Bryant: "This stone is erected to Major-General

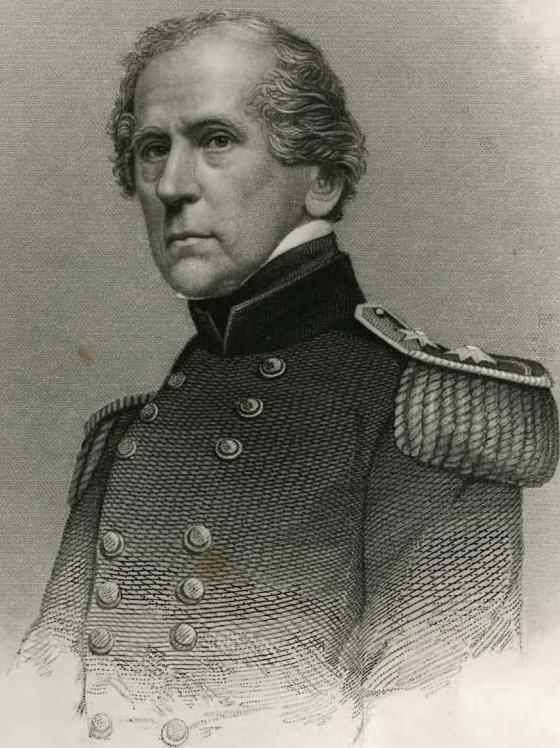
John Ellis Wool, the gallant soldier, the able commander, and the patriotic citizen, distinguished in many battles; and to Sarah Moulton, his excellent and worthy consort."





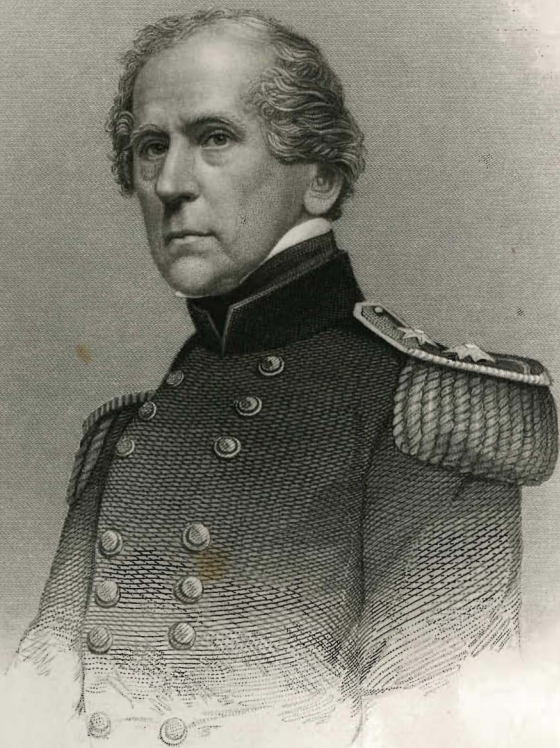
John E. Wool.

Wool, John E., major-general, was born at Newburg, N. Y., Feb. 20, 1784, son of a soldier of the War for Independence. He was for a time a book-seller at Troy and then a law student, but raised a company of volunteers at the beginning of the war of 1812, and through the influence of De Witt Clinton was made a captain in the 13th infantry in April, 1812. He was badly wounded in his first battle, that of Queenstown heights, received a major's commission April 13, 1813, took part at Plattsburg and was brevetted lieutenant-colonel. After the reduction of the army to a peace footing he was made colonel and inspector-general (1816). He was brevetted brigadier-general in 1826 and attained the rank by commission in 1841. In 1832 he went to Europe on a tour of inspection and witnessed the siege of Antwerp by the French. In 1836 he had charge of the removal of the Cherokees. In the early days of the war with Mexico he equipped and forwarded from the West 12,000 volunteers. Following them in person, he led 3,000 men from San Antonio to Saltillo and was next in command to Gen. Taylor during the later operations in the interior. At Buena Vista he chose the ground, disposed the forces for action and led them in the beginning of the battle. For his services here he received the brevet of major-general, and at a later date was presented swords by New York and Congress, with the thanks of the latter. He had command in the East, with headquarters at Troy, 1847-54 and 1857-60; was in charge of the Department of the Pacific, 1854-57, taking the field in 1856 against hostile Indians in the northwest. His promptness in reinforcing Fortress Monroe in the spring of 1861 secured that important post to the Union, and in August he was placed there as commander of the Department of Virginia. He occupied Norfolk and Portsmouth May 10, 1862, was commissioned major-general, U. S. A., six days later, and in June was sent to Baltimore to command the Middle Military Department. From Jan. to June, 1863, he had command of the Eastern Department and was stationed at New York, where he called on veterans to volunteer for the suppression of the draft riots. He was retired on Aug. 1, 1863, being long past the age for active service, and died at Troy, N. Y., Nov. 10, 1869.



Eng^d by Geo. E. Peck.

John E. Wool





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