

John P. Slough

Feb. 1, 1829 – Dec. 17, 1867

Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General, Judge. He studied law, was admitted to the Ohio Bar Association, and practiced as an attorney in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was elected as a Democrat to the Ohio General Assembly where he struck a fellow assemblyman and was expelled, prompting him to move to Denver, Colorado in 1860.

When the Civil War began, he entered the service as the Captain of the 1st Colorado "Pike's Peakers" Volunteer Regiment, and soon became a Colonel. Colorado was a federal territory that bordered the Confederate territory of New Mexico. When Confederate invaders under the command of General William R. Scurry threatened Colorado, Slough was ordered to remain at Fort Union. He disobeyed his orders and led a detachment from his regiment to pursue the Confederates hoping to intercept them at Glorietta Pass. He won total victory when he sent Major John M. Chivington on a flank attack, which successfully destroyed a Confederate supply train.

Slough was ordered by his superior, Colonel Edward Canby, to return to the fort at once. Fearing reprimand, he sent announcement of his resignation ahead of him, departed Colorado, and returned to the East.

He reported to Washington and was assigned to command a brigade in the Shenandoah Valley. He received a brevet promotion from Colonel to Brigadier General of U.S. Volunteers on August 25, 1862, was reassigned to Alexandria, Virginia as a military Governor, and remained there for the rest of the war.

When the conflict was finally over, he was appointed by President Andrew Johnson as Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. He became very unpopular as a judge and many officials sought his removal. He was shot from a pistol wielded by William D. Rynerson during a quarrel on December 15, 1867 which left him mortally wounded. He died two days later.