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Thomas H. Ruger

Thomas Howard Ruger (April 2, 1833 – June 3, 1907) was an American soldier and lawyer who served as a Union general in the American Civil War. After the war, he was a superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

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Early life

Ruger was born in Lima, New York, and moved to Janesville, Wisconsin in 1846. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1854, third in his class of 46, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He resigned in 1855 to become a lawyer in Wisconsin.

Civil War

Ruger was appointed lieutenant colonel of the 3rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment in June 1861, and promoted to colonel on August 20. Ruger commanded his regiment in Maryland and the Shenandoah Valley campaigns. He participated in the Battle of Antietam, in which he was wounded while acting commander of a brigade in the 1st Division, XII Corps. Commissioned brigadier general of volunteers in November 1862, Ruger led his brigade of the XII Corps, Army of

Thomas Howard Ruger



Born	April 2, 1833 Lima, New York
Died	June 3, 1907 (aged 74) Stamford, Connecticut
Place of burial	West Point Cemetery
Allegiance	United States of America Union
Service/branch	United States Army Union Army
Years of service	1854–1855, 1861–1897
Rank	 Major General
Commands held	Department of the Missouri Department of Dakota Department of California Department of the East

the Potomac, in the [Battle of Chancellorsville](#), and commanded the division of Brig. Gen. [Alpheus Williams](#) temporarily at [Gettysburg](#).^[1] (Col. [Silas Colgrove](#) led the brigade in that battle, participating in the defense of [Culp's Hill](#).) In the summer of 1863, Ruger was in [New York City](#), where he aided in suppressing [draft riots](#).

Ruger led a brigade of [XX Corps](#) in Maj. Gen. [William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign](#) until November 1864, and with a division of [XXIII Corps](#) took part in the [campaign](#) against General [John B. Hood's](#) army in [Tennessee](#). He was appointed a [brevet major general](#) of volunteers, November 30, 1864, for services at the [Battle of Franklin](#). Ruger organized a division at [Nashville](#) and led his command to [North Carolina](#) in June 1865, and then had charge of the department of that state until June 1866.^[2] He was mustered out of his volunteer commission, accepting a [regular army](#) commission as colonel, July 28, 1866, and on March 2, 1867, was brevetted brigadier general, regular army, for his services at [Gettysburg](#).

Battles/wars	American Civil War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shenandoah Campaign Battle of Antietam Battle of Chancellorsville Gettysburg Campaign Battle of Gettysburg New York Draft Riots Battle of Franklin Crow War <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battle of Crow Agency
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Later years

Ruger participated in [Reconstruction](#) as the military governor of [Georgia](#) and in the [Freedmen's Bureau](#) in [Alabama](#) in 1868. He was the superintendent of the [United States Military Academy](#) from 1871 to 1876. Other commands he held were the [Department of the South](#) (1876–78), the [Infantry and Cavalry School of Application](#) (1885–86), the [Department of Dakota](#) (1886–91), the [Military Division of the Pacific](#) (1891), the [Department of California](#) (1891–94), the [Military Division of the Missouri](#) (1894–95) and the [Department of the East](#) (1895–97). In 1887 Ruger led the army's expedition into the [Big Horn Mountains](#) during the [Crow War](#). He retired, in 1897, with the rank of major general in the Regular Army.

He was a Veteran Companion of the [Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States](#) and an Honorary Companion of the [Military Order of Foreign Wars](#).

He died in [Stamford, Connecticut](#), and is buried in [West Point National Cemetery](#).^[3]

See also

- [List of American Civil War generals \(Union\)](#)

Notes

- ↑ Spruill, Matt (2011). *Decisions at Gettysburg : The Nineteen Critical Decisions That Defined the Campaign* (http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=364702&site=eds-live&scope=site&ebv=EB&ppid=pp_74). Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. p. 74. ISBN 978-1572337459. Retrieved 3 June 2016.

- Vagts, Detlev F. (2008). "Military Commissions: The Forgotten Reconstruction Chapter" (<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edslex&AN=edslexBB106FD5&site=eds-live&scope=site>). *American University International Law Review*. **23**: 241. Retrieved 3 June 2016.
- "Georgia Governors' Gravesites Field Guide, 1776 - 2003" (https://web.archive.org/web/20060118235505/http://www.gashpo.org/assets/documents/ga_govs_graves_field_guide.pdf) (PDF). Georgia Historic Preservation Division. Archived from the original (http://www.gashpo.org/assets/documents/ga_govs_graves_field_guide.pdf) (PDF) on 2006-01-18. Retrieved 2009-04-19.

References

- Eicher, John H., and David J. Eicher. *Civil War High Commands*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2001. ISBN 0-8047-3641-3.

External links

- Ruger biography (http://www.all-biographies.com/soldiers/thomas_h_ruger.htm)
- Georgia State Archives roster of State Governors (http://sos.georgia.gov/archives/what_do_we_have/govhisroster.htm)
- "Thomas H. Ruger" (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/4906>). Find a Grave. Retrieved August 16, 2010.
- General Thomas H. Ruger Map: Official U.S. Military Map of the Staked Plains (<http://hdl.handle.net/10605/115>)
- The Thomas Howard Ruger Papers at the Beinecke Library, Yale University (<http://hdl.handle.net/10079/bibid/9300941>)

Military offices		
Preceded by Thomas Gamble Pitcher	Superintendents of the United States Military Academy 1871–1876	Succeeded by John McAllister Schofield
Preceded by Elwell Otis	Commandant of the Command and General Staff College June 1885 – May 1886	Succeeded by Alexander McDowell McCook
Political offices		
Preceded by Charles J. Jenkins	Governor of Georgia 1868	Succeeded by Rufus Bullock

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