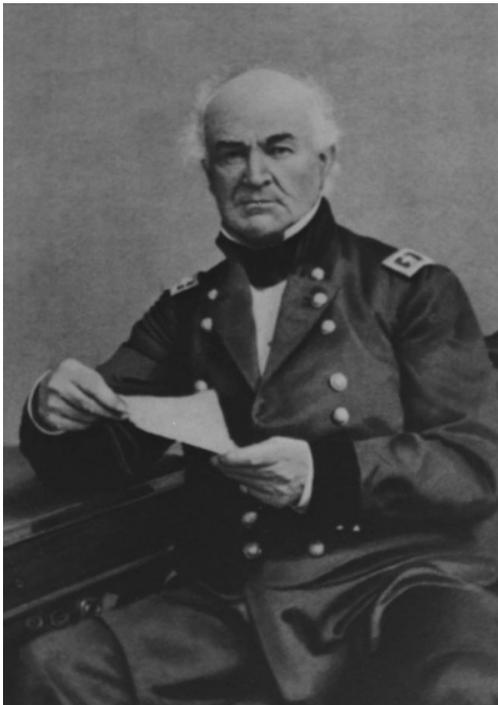


## LIEUTENANT COLONEL ETHAN ALLEN HITCHCOCK US Army (Deceased)



Ethan Allen Hitchcock graduated from West Point in 1817 and was commissioned in Infantry. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in 1818 and Captain in 1824. From 1824 to 1833, he was an Instructor and then Commandant of Cadets at West Point. For the next 15 years, Hitchcock was stationed in Wisconsin Territory, the Northwest, and Florida as an Inspector General. During the Mexican War, Hitchcock was Inspector General on General Winfield Scott's staff during the march to Mexico City and was brevetted to Colonel for Gallantry at Contreras and Churubusco in August 1847 and to Brigadier General for Molino Del Rey in September 1847.

The US Army had no intelligence service and very little knowledge of the terrain or conditions in Mexico when it entered war with that country in 1846. In addition, the roads were extremely dangerous, patrolled by either Mexican forces or bandits. Hitchcock solved the problem with the creation of the Mexican Spy Company, headed by a paroled bandit leader named Manuel Dominguez who agreed to work for the US Army in exchange for his freedom. This unlikely leader gathered 100 other Mexican citizens who were employed as runners and trained to infiltrate into Mexico City prior to the battle to gather information on route suitability, troop strength and disposition. The effectiveness of the spy network was revealed by the low number of casualties suffered by the US forces in the defeat of Mexico.

MG Hitchcock continued to serve in the Army until 1855 when friction with Secretary of War Jefferson Davis caused him to resign (at his permanent rank of Lieutenant Colonel). When the Civil War began, he offered his services and was appointed Special Advisor to the Secretary of War and Major General of Volunteers in the US Army. He served on the commission overseeing exchanges of prisoners, on the commission revising the military code, and as an Advisor to President Abraham Lincoln. He was mustered out of service in 1867 due to an injury.

LTC Hitchcock kept a detailed diary of his time in service which documents his experiences as well as his beliefs and frustrations. It was compiled into a book by W.A. Croffut entitled *Fifty Years in Camp and Field: Diary of Major General Ethan Allen Hitchcock*.

LTC Hitchcock passed away in August 1870. He was posthumously inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1988.