Civil War Defenses of Washington

Maj. General John G. Barnard

Born: May 19, 1815 in Sheffield, MA Died: May 14, 1882 in Detroit, MI In April of 1861, John G. Barnard became chief engineer of the Army of the Potomac and designed an integrated ring of fortifications that encircled the Union capital. By the completion of the Civil War, Washington, D.C. was protected by 68 forts. Barnard was a graduate and former Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a respected expert on coastal fort construction.

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