

**Name:** John Lorimer Worden

**Years:** March 12, 1818 – October 18, 1897

**Residence:** Westchester County, New York

**Brief Biography:**

John Lorimer Worden was born in 1818 to Ananias and Harriet Graham Worden. At a young age Worden became a Navy-man, at the rank of midshipman. After graduating from Naval School and gaining more experience Worden achieved the rank of lieutenant in 1846, spending the Mexican War years stationed off the Californian Coast. When the Civil War began, Worden sympathized with the Northern efforts. In 1861, Worden spent several months in an Alabama prison when he was caught traveling with secret instructions that were important to the Union efforts. After Worden's release and recovery he returned to duty. In 1862, he was given command of an armored steam ship, the U.S.S. Monitor. In this new ship Worden engaged in battle with the troublesome C.S.S. Virginia. Although, he did not win he did not lose either, his efforts held off the *Virginia* at the battle of Hampton Roads which resulted in the continuation of the Norfolk blockade. Also in 1862 Worden was promoted to the rank of Commander. Worden's continued efforts and successes in battle promoted him to the rank of captain in 1863. After the war Worden was promoted to the rank of rear admiral. He continued to serve the navy in a variety of way. He was involved with the U.S. Naval Academy, the European Squadron and served as the president of the retiring board at the academy until 1886. Worden died in 1897.

**Major Accomplishments:**

John Lorimer Worden's greatest accomplishment meant was his endeavor in the battle with the *Virginia*. While he was unable to defeat the ship, Worden was able to drive them away and had protected and kept intact the blockade around Norfolk.

**More Information:**

Clarence E. MacCartney, *Mr. Lincoln's Admirals* (1956); R. Gerald McMurty "The Life and Career of John Lorimer Worden," *Lincoln Herald* 51 (1949): 12-20; William C. Davis, *Duel between the First Ironclads* (1975); A. A. Hoeling, *Thunder at Hampton Roads* (1976); Roy P. Nichols, ed., *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, vol. 1 (1956), pp. 719-29; Virgil C. Jones, *The Civil War at Sea* (1960-1961).

**Resources:**

American National Biography Online; Encyclopedia Britannica Online