

My dear Callender,

I have nothing very important to communicate. So far as Indian news are concerned, there seems no doubt that both Wright & Garnett will have some fighting with the savages. Wright was to have started out from Walla Walla on last Monday Aug. 2, and Garrett on Monday the 9th. MacRall has had 25,000 more rifle musket Cartridges sent to Walla Walla. We have about 25,000 left. I do not know how many of the same sort we shall receive per Columbia. The following is a list of the principal stores now on hand. 20,000 Colt Dragoon Ps Cartridges 2,600 Colt Belt Pistol Cartridges, 10 Colt Belt pistols, 16,000 Rifle x Ball Cartridges, 70,000 Rifle Blank Cartridges, 40,000 Musket Buck & Ball Cartridges, 9,000 Musketoon Ball Cartridges, 30,000 U.S. Cavalry Pistol Cartridges, 6300 Per. Caps, 222 Rifle Muskets 112 Per Rifles.

I forgot to send you Requisitions for the parts to complete the Oregon issue. You will receive the requisitions by this steamer. Will you please hurry up some grease for arms which Milkensen sometime since requested. Also please send us a dozen or two Blank Accts nine of which came in our last supply of Blanks from Ord. Office.

Iugulls tells me that 7 Companies of the 3rd Arty will be quartered here this winter. In this case, Eckersen & myself will have to go to the village where the accommodations are very poor. I suppose by April or May next the 3rd Arty companies will again campaign in the Snake Country. I am not aware that any new buildings are to be put up at Benicia Arsenal this summer. But if you need Oak timber in their construction, or want a supply to be kept on hand for Ordnance purposes, I think you can get a supply of 200,000 feet up here.

Runemances to McAllister & others.

Lndy re

J.W. Sill

P.S. We have just received your stores sent by Columbia. We had already made out & sent to Astoria to be Mailed there requisitions for the Rifle, Bullet ____ & _____. Please destroy them : and you will receive suitable Requisitions by this mail to conform with what you sent: By adding what you sent to the list of stores above given, you can form an estimate of what we now have on hand.

In reply to your inquiry as to the sufficiency of Rifled-Musket & ball ammunition, I can say from Macrall that there is plenty.

2nd P.S. Have just received a Requisition which will take away from our stores. 6 Colt belt Pistols, 1,000 Colt belt Pistol Cartridges , 10 Rifles, 3000 Rifle (Musket?) Cartridges, 5000 Musket blank Cartridges.

The Upriver Steamer just in. Report that Col. Wright started from Walla Walla on the 7th. Nothing from Garrett.

JW Sill

3rd P.S. After I had a closed this letter I received the enclosed letter by this morning's mail from Liuet Morgan which is the very latest.

JW Sill

----- biography -----

Joshua Woodrow Sill (December 6, 1831 – December 31, 1862), was a career officer in the United States Army and brigadier general during the American Civil War. He was killed at the Battle of Stones River in Tennessee. Fort Sill, Oklahoma, was later named in his honor.

Sill was born in Chillicothe, Ohio. His early education was obtained largely from his father, who was a lawyer. Sill was appointed in 1849 to the United States Military Academy. During his four years at West Point he ranked among the best scholars and graduated third in his class of 52 cadets. Upon graduation he was commissioned a brevet second lieutenant in Ordnance and his first assignment was at the Watervliet Arsenal in Troy, New York. In 1855 he was assigned to West Point as an instructor. After two years there he was assigned to Pittsburgh Arsenal as an ordnance officer.

In May 1858, Sill was sent to Vancouver in Washington Territory to superintend the building of an arsenal. Difficulties with the British Government prevented the construction of this arsenal and he was reassigned to Watervliet Arsenal. A few months later he was ordered to Fort Leavenworth, but resigned his commission in January 1861. He then taught mathematics and civil engineering in the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute.

Civil War

Following the bombardment of Fort Sumter, Sill resigned his teaching position and offered his services to the Governor of Ohio, who appointed him Assistant Adjutant General of the State in May 1861. Here he was occupied in the organization of the Ohio forces. In August 1861 he was commissioned colonel of the 33rd Ohio Infantry and accompanied Brig. Gen. William "Bull" Nelson in the Eastern Kentucky expedition.

He was then assigned as a brigade commander in Brig. Gen. Ormsby M. Mitchel's division of the Army of the Ohio. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on July 16, 1862. Shortly thereafter, Sill was elevated to command of a division, though was soon reassigned to command a brigade in Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan's division of the now-named Army of the Cumberland.

Sill took part in the bloodiest battle of the Civil War (in terms of percentage of casualties on both sides), the Battle of Stones River, just outside Murfreesboro, Tennessee. On the first day of battle, while leading his men forward, he was killed by rifle fire. On the eve of the battle, Sill had been in conference with his commander, General Sheridan. When the conference adjourned and the attendees began to disperse, Sill and Sheridan mistakenly put on each other's coats. Sill was thus wearing Sheridan's coat at the time he was killed.

Death

Sill's body was found by Confederate troops, who buried it in a battlefield cemetery near the scene of his death. Sill was later interred at Grandview Cemetery, Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio.

An epitaph from one of Sill's officers stated that "No man in the entire army, I believe, was so much admired, respected, and beloved by inferiors as well as superiors in rank as was General Sill."

Fort Sill, Oklahoma

In 1869, Sill's West Point classmate and division commander, General Philip H. Sheridan, officially established a military post in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma. Sheridan named the military post in memory of Sill. Fort Sill is the largest field artillery complex in the world.