BHM 2019 021 26   San Francisco Cala

                                                   March 23rd 1853

Sir

I am directed to say by Gen'l Hitchcock that he has learned from Major Leonard that you have in your possession some documents of Capt Warner relating to the land reserved by Gen'l Kearney in this City for government purposes. When you visit San Francisco again the General wishes you to bring down all the papers you have respecting this property as he desires to examine them.

                                                   I am Sir

                                                   Very Respectfully

                                                   Yr Obt Servt

                                                   W.M. Gardner

                                                   1st Lt 2nd Inf

                                                   A.D.C.

Capt. C.P. Stone U.S.A.

Benicia Barracks

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Hitchcock was born in Vergennes, Vermont. His father was Samuel Hitchcock (1755-1813), a lawyer who served as United States District Judge for Vermont, and his mother was Lucy Caroline Allen (1768-1842), the daughter of American Revolutionary War hero General Ethan Allen.

Ethan A. Hitchcock graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1817 (17th out of 19) and was commissioned a third lieutenant of Field Artillery.

He was promoted to captain in 1824. From 1829 to 1833, he served as commandant of cadets at West Point and was promoted to major in 1838. By 1842 he achieved the rank of the lieutenant colonel in the 3rd Infantry Regiment, in command of Fort Stansbury.[2]

He served in the Seminole War in Florida, in the Pacific Northwest, and in the Mexican–American War, where he served as Gen. Winfield Scott's inspector general in the march on Mexico City. He received a brevet promotion to colonel for Contreras and Churubusco and to brigadier general for Molino del Rey.

In 1851, became the colonel of the 2nd Infantry. From 1851 to 1854, he commanded the Pacific Division and then the Department of the Pacific.

In October 1855, he resigned from the Army following a refusal by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis to extend a four-month leave of absence that he had requested for reasons of health. He moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and began a presumed retirement, occupying himself with writing and studies of general literature and philosophy.