

Benicia Arsenal, Cal.

March 19<sup>th</sup> 1858

Colonel H.K. Craig

Chief of Ordnance,

Washington, D.C.

Colonel;

I have the honor to transmit herewith, letters to Lt. Col. Swords, with his recommendation and that of the General Commanding the Department of the Pacific, in relation to transfer of ground to the Benicia Arsenal, etc. together with a map of the whole Military Reserve.

My letter to Col. Swords fully explains the Matter, and I have only to add that the ground asked for gives the ordnance, the site that Lt. Col. Ripley considered so desirable. (and the best on the reserve.) for a large store House and other Arsenal buildings. The ground that the Ordnance relinquish, although good ground, would probably never be built upon by the Ordnance Department as it is unconnected with the grounds at present occupied by the Arsenal.

The condition recommended by Lt. Col. Swords, that the unoccupied officers quarters standing at the point marked "H" on the map, be moved to where they may be organized in the neighborhood of course to some point on the Quartermaster's ground. I do not consider any objection. The building referred to is of wood, and has never been lathed and plastered, and could be moved at a trifling cost by the aid of the Enlisted force under my Command and such assistance as I could probably get from the Quarter Master's Department.

I hope that these recommendations will meet with your views and that you will be pleased to bring the subject, as Early as practicable, to the notice of the Honorable Secretary of War.

The proposition recommended, is written out on the map, and if the Hon. Secretary approves the same, the map itself might be returned through me to the Head Quarters of the Department of the Pacific, and the necessary orders in the case issue therefrom.

Very Respectfully

Your Obed't Servt

Capt Callender

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Lt. Col. Thomas Swords, Deputy Quartermaster-General and Chief of the Quartermaster's Department  
U.S. Army, in the Department of California.

## Thomas Swords

SWORDS, Thomas, soldier, born in New York city, 1 November, 1806; died there, 20 March, 1886. He was a grandson of Captain Thomas Swords, a British officer, who died in New York in 1780, and his father was the senior member of the publishing-house of T, and J. Swords, of New York city. The son was graduated at the United States military academy in 1829, assigned to the 4th infantry, and served in various parts of the southern states for four years, when he was appointed 1st lieutenant in the 1st dragoons. He was promoted captain, 3 March, 1837, and during nearly the whole of the succeeding twelve years was engaged on frontier duty, serving with Gen Henry Leavenworth against the Indians in the southwest, and with General Stephen Kearny in the conquest of New Mexico and California, and raised the first American flag over Santa Fe. When General Kearny's force reached San Diego on the Pacific coast in January, 1847, Swords, who was the quartermaster, went to the Sandwich islands and obtained clothing and supplies for the soldiers. He became captain and assistant quartermaster, 7 July, 1838, major, 21 April, 1846, and lieutenant-colonel and deputy quartermaster-general, 3 August, 1861. He was chief quartermaster of the Army of the West in 1846-'7, was engaged at San Pasqual, California, 6 December, 1846, and at Vera Cruz, and was brevetted lieutenant-colonel, 30 May, 1848, for meritorious services in the enemy's country. He was chief quartermaster of the Departments of the Cumberland and the Ohio in 1861-'5, was engaged in the battle of Chickamauga, and brevetted brigadier-general and major-general, United States army, 13 March, 1865. He was retired from active service, 22 February, 1869.

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