

BHM 2019 21 48

Monterey Nov 7th 1856

Sir

I have this day shipped by the U.S. Transport the General Patterson all the Ordnance and Ordnance Stores remaining at this Depot.

I have also sent Armorer Connor and his wife, a laundress of the detachment of Ordnance under your command. Armorer Seymour has been retained here by myself until it is determined what disposition is to be made of the public buildings at this place. I would recommend that a furlough of two months be granted him and also that he be reenlisted with the grade of master workman.

He is a very faithful man an experienced saddler, and if he could be induced to reenlist his services would be invaluable at Benicia Arsenal. I shall return to duty at Benicia Arsenal as soon as I have completed my duties here. I would however respectfully apply for leave of absence for one week, to date from the 14th inst; the time when I presume my official duties here will be finished.

I have private matters and engagements here which almost imperatively require my presence.

Mr Ord, the gentleman to whom I am instructed to offer the position of abandonment post keeper will be here tomorrow evening and by the mail of day after tomorrow I will communicate officially the appointment of some one to take charge of buildings etc at this place.

I am very respectfully

Your Obt Servt

Briscoe G Baldwin

M.S.K. Ordnance

Capt. F.D. Callender

Comdy Benicia Arsenal

Benicia

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----- information -----

Company F, 3rd Artillery Regiment arrived in Monterey in January 1847, and the U.S. Army then assumed from the Navy responsibility for the continuing construction of Fort Mervine. Two of the

artillery lieutenants, William Tecumseh Sherman and E.O.C. Ord, plus Engineer Lieutenant Henry W. Halleck, became prominent generals during the Civil War.

During its early history, this fortification seemed to have many names, including Fort Halleck, Fort Savannah and the Monterey Redoubt. In 1852, the Monterey Redoubt was renamed the Monterey Ordnance Depot and used until 1856 as a military storehouse. From 1856 to the closing months of the Civil War, the fort, then called Ord Barracks, was abandoned. It was manned again in 1865, and abandoned a second time in 1866, although the U.S. Government "reserved" for possible future use a 140-acre military reservation surrounding the redoubt.