

BHM 2019 021 49

Circular

Ordnance Office

Washington, Aug 26, 1856

Sir:

In consequence of the failure of Congress, thus far, to Make appropriations for the Support of the Army for the present fiscal year, and of the uncertainty of such appropriations being Made, it becomes necessary to bring the expenditures at the Armories, Arsenals, and Ordnance Depots within available means of the Department.

You are, therefore, on receipt of this discharge all workmen and other employees, not holding Commissions from the President, Whose pay, Wages, or salaries are taken from the Appropriations for "Ordnance Service" – "Ordnance Old Stores & Supplies" – or "Armament of Fortifications." Such works as are provided for in other appropriations, not yet expended, May be continued until those means become exhausted provided it can be done advantageously to the public interest; the number of workmen for such work to be limited strictly to the necessity of the case.

You will employ the enlisted men in the care and preservation of the public buildings, grounds, and other property at your Post and in such other operations of an Arsenal as they may be competent to perform.

Respectfully,

Your Obt Servt

AK Craig

Col of Ord

To

Capt F.D. Callender

Comdy Benicia Arsenal.

_____ Biography _____



Col. H.K. Craig July 1851-April 1861

In June 1821, Captain Craig was transferred to the 3rd Artillery, and in December 1823, received his brevet majority for ten years' faithful service in one grade. During the early 1820s, Captain Craig supervised several lead mines in Missouri and in Illinois, and in May 1832, was promoted to the rank of major. At some point thereafter, he was assigned to the Ordnance Corps, and during the War with Mexico, served as Chief of Ordnance for General Taylor. For his services in the Battle of Monterrey, he was brevetted lieutenant colonel in September 1846. Following that battle, he and a small group of officers and men moved a group of twelve pounder cannon from the Monterrey battlefield to the town of Buena Vista, 67 miles away. This was accomplished between dusk and dawn on a rough road within a period of seven hours, despite the fact that the axle on the gun carriage supporting one of the cannon snapped and had to be replaced. Although General Santa Anna, the Mexican commander, had abruptly withdrawn from the battlefield before Colonel Craig and his men arrived, his action nevertheless won him and his staff a cordial mention in general orders. He also gave an excellent account of himself during the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de Palma. From 1848 until 1851, Colonel Craig served as an inspector of arsenals.