

BHM 2019 021 53

Ordnance Office

Washington, Feby 29th 1856

Capt. F.D. Callender

Benicia Arsenal

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 1st and 4th instant. In regard to the arrangements you propose, for the greater security of the laboratory and the better accommodation of the enlisted men, I have to state that the former is essential; and as the execution of that part of the arrangement will enable you to improve the quarters for your detachment, at a small cost, the whole may be done as you propose. The necessary expenditure, therefore, will be charged to the appropriation for Benicia Arsenal. The steam engine, which you propose to procure, will also have to be charged, if purchased, to the same appropriation, and if a sufficient amount can be spared from it without interfering with objects of more importance, the purchase may be made. I would suggest, however, that a larger Engine, of greater power, would be more suitable in view of future operations at Benicia Arsenal, and that you take this into consideration in any order you may give; in connection with the available balance of the appropriation.

You are authorized to sell the old, unserviceable horse, and to purchase one, to replace him, on the best terms you can, not exceeding the price of three hundred dollars. The net proceeds of the sale will be credited to the appropriation for "Ordnance Service", and the cost of the horse to be purchased will be charged to the same.

The assignment of a Lieutenant to Benicia Arsenal will be made, as soon as the services of one for that station can be made available.

Respectfully

Yr Obt Sevt

A.K. Craig
Col. of Ord

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.