

BHM 2019 021 37

Recd: April 17th

Ord Office

Washington DC

March 18th/59

Captin F.D. Callender

Ord Dep'

Benicia Arsenal Cal.

Sir

In addition to the information called for in my letter of 16th inst you will state the number of Buildings that were transferred from the Quarter Masters to the Ordnance Dep', and what Buildings have been erected or repaired by the latter Depart' and used for Barracks or Quarters. These positions, which you will point out by referring to the Ground Plot in this office, of which it is supposed you have a Copy You will also report what Buildings have been razed or removed by your directions and the causes for their destruction, or removal.

With much Respt

A K Craig Col Ords

----- 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 Although General Santa Anna, the Mexican commander, had abruptly withdrawn from the battlefield before Colonel Craig and his men arrived, his action nevertheless won him and his staff a cordial mention in general orders.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.

On 10 July 1851, Colonel Craig was appointed Chief of Ordnance with the rank of full colonel. During the ten years before the Civil War, budget allocations for the Army were cut back considerably, and Colonel Craig did as much as he could to ensure that adequate funding was available for the production and procurement of the necessary weapons and munitions for peacetime activity. He encouraged studies of foreign ordnance and supported efforts to keep a good supply of proven models of rifles, cannon, and similar equipment on hand. Breech loading rifles were extensively tested during his tenure as Chief of Ordnance, but were not adopted because of problems with the cartridges of that time. In 1855, however, the Ordnance Board decided to convert existing stocks of smoothbore muzzle loading muskets to .58-cal. rifled muskets, and the days of the smoothbore were numbered. Finally, a modified 12-pounder Napoleon was tested and went into production. Colonel Craig was regarded as an experienced, conscientious, and dedicated officer, although he held strong views and was sometimes acerbic with his subordinates.

In the spring of 1861, at the age of 70 and after nearly 48 years of Army service, Colonel Craig was relieved of his duties at the direction of the new Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, on the grounds that the Ordnance Department needed more vigorous leadership in light of the national emergency. Colonel Craig protested this action, but Secretary Cameron, who had consulted with General Winfield Scott, the Army's commanding general, stood firm. Colonel Craig then took the matter up with President Lincoln, but the harried new Chief Executive chose not to intervene. Colonel Craig nevertheless remained on duty for another two years in an advisory capacity, and retired on 1 June 1863 after nearly fifty years of service. On 13 March 1865, he was brevetted brigadier general for his service of over half a century to the Army and to Ordnance. General Craig lived the remaining six-and-one-half years of his life in Washington, where he died on 7 December 1869, aged 78.

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FRANKLIN D. CALLENDER

(Ap'd N. Y.)

FRANKLIN DYER CALLENDER: BORN FEB. 27, 1817.

Military History. — Cadet at the Military Academy, July 1, 1835, to July 1, 1839, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to

BVT. SECOND LIEUT., ORDNANCE, JULY 1, 1839.

SECOND LIEUT., ORDNANCE, NOV. 16, 1839.

Served: as Asst. Ordnance Officer at Watervliet Arsenal, N. Y , 1839, 1840; in the Florida War, 1840-42, 1842-43; as Asst. Ordnance Officer

(BVT. FIRST LIEUT., MAY 1, 1842, FOR ACTIVE AND HIGHLY MERITORIOUS SERVICES IN THE WAR AGAINST THE FLORIDA INDIANS)

at Ft. Monroe Arsenal, Va. , 1842, — and at Watervliet Arsenal, 1843-44; in command of Detroit Arsenal, Mich. , 1844-46; in organizing Howitzer and Rocket Battery at Ft. Monroe Arsenal, Va., 1846; in the War with

(FIRST LIEUT., ORDNANCE, MAR. 3, 1847)

Mexico, 1847-48, being engaged with Howitzer and Rocket Battery in the Siege of Vera Cruz, Mar. 9-29, 1847, — Battle of Cerro Gordo, Apr. 17-18, 1847, — and Battle of Contreras, Aug. 19-20, 1847, where he

(BVT. CAPT., AUG. 20, 1847, FOR GALLANT AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN THE BATTLES OF CONTRERAS AND CHURUBUSCO, MEX.)

was severely wounded (two wounds); on special duty at Washington, p744 D. C., 1848; as Asst. Ordnance Officer at Watervliet Arsenal, N. Y., 1848; in command of Detroit Arsenal, Mich., 1848-51, — of Kennebec Arsenal, Me , 1851-55, — and of Benicia Arsenal, Cal 1856-60; and on

(CAPTAIN, ORDNANCE, JULY 1, 1853, FOR FOURTEEN YEARS' CONTINUOUS SERVICE)
Foundry duty, 1861.

Served during the Rebellion of the Seceding States, 1861-66: in command of St. Louis Arsenal, Mo. , 1861-62; as Chief of Ordnance of the Department of the Missouri, Nov. 19, 1861, to Mar. 11, 1862, — and of

(BVT. MAJOR, APR. 14, 1862, FOR FAITHFUL AND MERITORIOUS SERVICES IN HIS DEPARTMENT)

the Department of the Mississippi, Mar. 11 to July 11, 1862; as Chief of Ordnance of the State of Missouri, being attached as Aide-de-Camp on the Staff of the Governor, with the rank of Colonel, Dec. 2, 1861, to June 6, 1865; in the Campaign in Tennessee and Mississippi, Apr. 9 to July 2, 1862, being engaged in the Advance upon and Siege of Corinth, Mis., Apr. 9-May 30, 1862; as Chief of Ordnance of the Department of

(MAJOR, ORDNANCE, MAR. 3, 1863)

(BVT. LIEUT.-COL., MAR. 13, 1865, FOR FAITHFUL AND MERITORIOUS SERVICES DURING THE SIEGE OF CORINTH, MISS.)

(BVT. COLONEL, MAR. 13, 1865, FOR FAITHFUL AND MERITORIOUS SERVICES IN THE

ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT AT ST. LOUIS, MO.)

(BVT. BRIG.-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY, APR. 9, 1865, FOR FAITHFUL AND
MERITORIOUS SERVICES IN THE ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT)

the Missouri, and in command of St. Louis Arsenal, Mo., July 11, 1862, to Aug. 12,
1866.

LIEUT.-COLONEL, ORDNANCE, APR. 6, 1866.

Served: in command of St. Louis Arsenal, Mo., Aug. 12, 1866, to July 17, 1870,
being Chief of Ordnance of the Division of the Missouri, Jan. 28, 1867, to May 24,
1870, — of Washington Arsenal, D. C. , July 21, 1870, to Sep. 25, 1875, — and
Augusta Arsenal, Ga. , Oct. 22, 1875, to

(COLONEL, ORDNANCE, JUNE 23, 1874)

May 29, 1879; and as Member of Board upon Saddle Ambulance, Feb. 16 to
Mar. 5, 1875, — and of Examination Board of Ordnance Officers for promotion,
Apr., 1875; on leave of absence, Aug. 29 to Sept. 28, 1870, Aug. 10 to Oct. 1,
1871, May 21 to June 18, 1873, Sep. 20 to Oct. 18, 1873, May 27 to June 26, 1876,
Sep. 9 to Oct. 24, 1876, and Aug. 15 to Oct. 4, 1877.

RETIRED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE, MAY 29, 1879, HE BEING OVER 62 YEARS OF AGE.

DIED, DEC. 13, 1882, AT DAYSVILLE, ILL.: AGED 66.

BURIED, FAYETTEVILLE CEMETERY, FAYETTEVILLE, NY.