

## Addendum for the book: A Short History of Fort Reading, Its Officers and Units

After the work on Fort Reading was published in concert with the plaque ceremony for the one hundredth year of operation at Hawes' Fort Reading Ranch, readers began to provide additional material concerning Fort Reading. I have attempted to organize the new material so that it can be cut and inserted into the original book for those that wish.

### Page 11: Report of Lt. F. Paine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry A.A.Q. M dated August 25, 1852

Fort Reading  
Cottonwood P.O. Cala.  
August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1852

Sir:

In compliance with orders from Division Headquarters received yesterday, through the Commanding Officer of the post, requiring certain information be furnished to the Chief Quarter Master, I have the honor to forward the following statement. I am in receipt of two Circulars from your office, one of the 17<sup>th</sup> May and one of 7<sup>th</sup> June, requiring certain returns and information under Division orders No. 13. All the papers required by these Circulars, I believe, have been forwarded, as required, and all the information furnished, with the exception, of that required by the following paragraph of Circular of 17<sup>th</sup> May – "It is required that you will inform me, for the information of the Quarter Master General, the resources of the Country, the disposition of the Indians, and how in your opinion, they might best be controlled."

The U. S. Reserve for this Post, laid out by the Commanding Officer, furnishes a supply of good water – will furnish a supply of wood, for the use of the Post, for a great number of years and good grazing for from 150 to 200 animals. The Soil appears to be adaptive to the growing of small grain and, I think, by irrigation will produce good vegetables. The labor, however, of getting water from the creek for the purpose of irrigation will be considerable. Lumber suitable for building cannot be obtained nearer than from 20 to 25 miles to the Post. Lumber is furnished at a Saw-mill near Shasta City for \$100.00 per thousand -Shingles at from \$20.00 to \$25.00 per thousand.

The Indians in the immediate vicinity of the Post are friendly but not disposed to labor, either for food or other inducements. These may be easily controlled by assigning them land and, as their means of subsistence are reduced by the encroachments of the whites upon their former hunting and fishing grounds, by supplying them with food. Perhaps by a very prudent course and the use of the most gentle means they might be taught to cultivate the lands and raise their food; by that means rendering their means of subsistence less precarious, their mode of life less indolent and their condition far more comfortable.

At the distance of about 20 or 25 miles from the Post on the Pit River may be found a band or, perhaps, several bands of Indians, known by the valley Indians, as the Ukas, or hostile Indians – which are hostile to the whites and are frequently committing petit depredations and, sometimes, those of a more serious nature. They occupy the country from the mouth to the source of the Pit River and frequently extend their depredations across the Sacramento River. There are hostile Indians on the opposite side of the Sacramento River from the Post, on Cottonwood Creek, in the Coast Range, and from 30 to 40 miles from the Post. There are hostile Indians below us on this side of the Sacramento some 40 or 50 miles, in the Sierra Nevada. Of the two bands I know but little, and it is a most difficult matter to determine how those of Pit River might best be controlled. In my opinion no control can be

obtained over then by the whites or by the Government, for a long time. Their haunts are almost inaccessible and their precarious means of subsistence is to be found in nearly all parts of the country and is gathered by them mostly as they travel, so that in their marches or retreats, they are not burdened either by the weight of arms and ammunition or of provisions. Probably the only means of ensuring the whites against their depredations is by the use of force and at the same time by protecting the Indians as well as the whites. The Indians in many cases, no doubt, have been abused by the whites and many of their, so called, outrages have been committed for revenge.

Very respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Ferd. Paine  
Lt. 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry  
Acting Assistant Quarter Master

Major O. Cross  
Chief Quarter Master Pacific Division  
U. S. Army  
San Francisco, Cala.

Historical note: O. Cross was Osborn Cross born in Maryland in 1803. Osborn was a cadet at the U. S. Military Academy from 1820 to 1825 after which he was commissioned a Brevet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. Almost immediately he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. and transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and posted to New Orleans, Louisiana. Osborn transferred back to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry and served at Fort Snelling, Minnesota from 1828 to 1832. Osborn was promoted to 1st Lt. in 1831. From 1832 to 1833 Osborn served in the commissary department before returning to quartermaster assignments in Louisiana, Florida, and the Indian Territory. Osborn was promoted to captain of staff in 1838. After the annexation of Texas Osborn served in the Army of Occupation. During the Mexican War Osborn was the Quartermaster in General Wool's Division in 1846 to 1847 and was promoted to staff major. In 1848 Osborn was Quartermaster of the Army of Mexico. From May 1852 until March 1857 Osborn was Chief Quartermaster of the Division of the Pacific. Osborn is next noted as awaiting trial and he was suspended from service in 1858. In 1862 Osborn was reinstated with the rank of staff major and assigned as Chief Quartermaster of the Army of Mississippi. In February 1863 Osborn was promoted to Lt. Colonel of staff. Osborn served in Tennessee, Maryland, and the Carolinas and in March 1865 was promoted Brevet Brigadier General. In July 1866 Osborn was promoted to staff colonel and retired due to age. Brevet Brigadier General and Colonel Osborn Cross died in New York in 1876.

Page 11: Report of Captain Miller A.Q.M. dated July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1853 (Note: the map supplied in the book was drawn by Col. Mansfield in 1854 during an inspection of Fort Reading and includes additional buildings such as the wheelwright's shop, blacksmith shop, and stable that were completed after the July 1853 map and report accomplished by Captain Morris. Captain Morris' map is attached at the end of this addendum along with diagrams of additional buildings. The July 1853 correspondence included a rough map of the District of Northern California, a map of Fort Reading, and drawings of the buildings at Fort Reading that included the materials required for construction and the cost of

construction. The numbers listed in the letter below relate to the Fort Reading map and drawings of buildings.)

Asst. Qr. Master's Office  
Fort Reading, Cal.  
July 1<sup>st</sup> 1853

Major O. Cross  
Chief Qr. Master, Pacific Division  
San Francisco, Cal.

Major:

On my arrival at this post, in October last, I found four Adobe buildings in (the) process of construction, marked on the plan Nos. 2, 3 & 8, also one of logs, complete except a roof, which was of canvass, being situated in the rear of No. 8, and used as a kitchen and mess-room for the men. The adobe buildings, referred to, had then, no doors, partitions, nor floors: two only had roofs, No. 8 had a canvas roof and one of the Nos. 2 was not yet sufficiently completed to receive its rafters. Shingle roofs have been put on all these buildings, floors laid, windows, doors and partitions put in and they have been plastered with ordinary plaster on the inside and cement without. All the other buildings in the plan have been erected since my taking charge of the operations of the Dept. at this place. They are all except the Magazine (which is of adobe) built of rough weather boarding without lining or ceiling. The only lumber I could procure was of poor quality, being very knotty, green from the mill and entirely sawed to order. The climate is very injurious to lumber, being excessively wet in the winter and equally dry in the summer season. The buildings were necessarily constructed during the fall and winter and the rains set in before the lumber could be seasoned, causing much swelling in that already partly seasoned and preventing any further seasoning until the rains ceased in the Spring. The drought and heat of the summer is now operating powerfully in contracting the weather boarding doors etc. The knots are without exception burst open in the center, the bursting being accompanied with a loud report quite startling when unexpected. The weather boarding is much warped and split.

Building with adobe is much preferable in many respects, if well protected from the weather: they are cooler in summer and warmer in winter – the great difficulty with them is their preservation during the rainy season. The south end of the two buildings Nos. 2 are both falling from the effects of last winter's rains. I am of the opinion, that the same earth of which the adobe is made would make brick and that the building would not cost more than when built of lumber. This, however, I cannot assert on account of my want of experience in making brick. I could not make them in the fall and winter. The buildings are of the most temporary kind. The blacksmith's shop and stables are still mere frames of logs and poles covered with canvass. They are not on the plan, they are in situated in the vicinity of the Corral, No 16.

The soil in the neighborhood, of the post is fertile and can be cultivated to advantage for the usual cereal crops, especially Barley which is the staple production of this region. I am informed, by a Gentleman who made the experiment on a small scale and under disadvantageous circumstances, that cotton succeeds wonderfully, yielding a long staple of very fine quality. The tobacco is indigenous and I have seen bunches of it gathered by the Indians in its wild state for their own consumption; it was in blossom about the first of June. The garden vegetables grow to a large size and are of excellent quality;

the sudden cessation of rain, however, requires the cultivator to resort to irrigation. With due care and a judicious regard to the Climate I believe that crops of all kinds will, here, yield a full return.

The climate, during the year, is in temperature, very similar, to that of Sacramento; the latitude of the place is about 42 ½ degrees. The temperature varies much in every 24 hours, during the day the thermometer has already indicated a temperature of 102 degrees and 105 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade, while the summit of Mount Shasta, 60 miles north, is in plain sight covered with perpetual snow. The nights are generally cool, and as the sun declines in the afternoon a sensible relief is felt from the heat, immediately after sunset a sudden change of temperature ensues, producing a sensation similar to that experienced in a northern climate in winter, when the door of an over heated room has been opened.

The dry season lasts from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May to the latter part of October, during this period, with the exception of an occasional sprinkling in May there is absolutely no rain and hardly a cloud to be seen. From the latter part of October until the middle of January it rains incessantly. The country may be said to be more than well watered during the rainy season, being subject to sudden and destructive inundations. The Creeks having their rise in the mountains but a few miles from the Sacramento are very rapid in their flow and during the long rains are swollen to torrents, where at this season of the year hardly a foot of water can be found, in fact many of the tributaries to the Sacramento are now entirely dried up.

Cow Creek, on which Fort Reading is situated, has running water in it the year around, being supplied by the melting of the snow in the mountains. It is now a very insignificant stream, but during the rainy season rises very suddenly: in one instance, last winter, it rose 25 feet in 36 hours: it empties in the Sacramento about one mile south of this point.

There is no building material, except adobe earth, found in the vicinity of the post. The nearest lumber, fit for this purpose, is 20 miles from this place. I have found, about three miles from this place, a kind of stone that answers for building chimneys: it is of volcanic origin: a kind of pedregal of a dark bluish gray color and permeated throughout its whole mass with small sinuses, in which are deposited small white crystals of some mineral salt now in a state of decomposition and easily detached and pulverized by the fingers: the main body of the stone is, however sound and hard. It is admirably adapted to retaining mortar or cement and would make excellent buildings which could be overcast with any kind of cement, which would remain permanent on the exterior after being once properly applied. There is an ample quantity of it.

The trees in the neighborhood are mostly a kind of oak, unsound in their growth, being, most of them, penetrated with decay although apparently in a very flourishing condition, containing large cavities in their trunks and branches. There are no groves, but the trees appear, at a distance, like orchards, there being intervals between them. They are called oak orchards in such localities. The tree itself grows to a large size, the branches commencing to spread at 8 or 10 feet above the ground, and as there is little or no undergrowth of bushes these orchards present the appearance of well cultivated parks.

The Indians in this region are of the class called diggers, living chiefly on roots, acorns, fish and are as different from those on the Atlantic side of the mountains as the fisherman is from the hunter. Their only arm is the bow and arrow unless the fishing spear be included. They are by no means warlike and in fact may be properly called entirely inoffensive.

There are several settlements within 10 or 15 miles of this post, consisting of small hamlets called rancherias, containing from 100 to 150 inhabitants, some more and some less. They appear to be

distinct colonies acknowledging the authority of the Chief of each Village and no other. Their mode of life, in its nature peaceful, offers no field to the ambitious warrior and powerful chiefs with large bands are unknown. Their animal food being principally fish, hunting is almost a novelty to them, their usual provision for the winter is the smoked salmon. The sudden big occupation, by the whites, of the rivers and streams, to which they have been in the habit of resorting for their main subsistence has rendered their condition deplorable in the extreme. Where their fishing nets were stretched across the river last year, steamboats pass now almost daily, and various mills and other improvements of the white man have driven from the small streams the myriad of fish which they teemed two years since. Being thus cut off from their supplies they are in many cases reduced to starvation, a position in which theft is their only relief. While in this situation the herds of the white man are being driven past their habitation offering a temptation which is irresistible and the cattle are stolen accordingly. These depredations are, no doubt, regarded by the Indians in the light of reprisals on the whites – a substitute for their fish – their only means of securing the food promised them, but not furnished by the faithless agents of the Government in their recent notorious treaties.

The search for gold induces the miner to penetrate as far as possible into the interior of the country and there is no place where the native finds himself safe from contact with the whites, whose advent he regards as a calamity bringing starvation and death.

Since the occupation of this Coast by the United States the Indian question has assumed a new aspect. The settlers on the Atlantic Coast gradually drove the natives in a westerly direction and the home for the Indian was to be in the "Far West" – Now the tide of white population is flowing from the Pacific back – fed by streams of immigration that have burst through the Rocky Mountains and pass through their hunting grounds to swell the flood rolling upon them from this quarter. As there is no far East to which the native of this coast can be referred for a resting place no relief by removal can be resorted to.

If justice were a prominent trait of the population, if mercy were occasionally exhibited, or if even a small right to the soil and its natural productions were acknowledged to reside in the Indian, some hope might be entertained of their remaining in contact with whites and subsisting. But it is well known that such views and such feelings are considered Utopian by the settlers, who plant themselves on territory acknowledged to belong to the Indians with the same assurance that they would enter upon grounds duly conveyed by deed, demanding, vociferously, the protection of the General Government and making the absence of such protection their apology for exterminating the natives in a most summary manner. No consideration for the Indian enters the breast of the settler, he is regarded simply as a temporary obstacle – a wild beast whose removal or destruction is to be effected as speedily as possible, and extermination, being the most rapid, is usually considered the best mode of ridding the vicinity of the evil.

Such is a concise statement of the condition of the Indians.

The best manner of governing them is a question which has employed the time and attention of able Statesmen since the first settlement of America, and no satisfactory solution appears, as yet, to have been found.

I feel some hesitation, therefore, in expressing my views on the subject, but having been called upon to do so, I shall express them plainly and without reference to the popular voice, which calling for extermination, will regard any mode of governing them as entirely supererogatory.

The Indian in this vicinity can, I believe, (can) be readily controlled by protecting him from the whites and furnishing him food. A certainty of these two – protection and food – is all that is required.

Clothing he can do without as heretofore, although he is very covetous of it, and small presents to the chiefs might be of good effect.

It is well known that before our taking possession of California, large numbers of Indians were employed at the various Missionary Establishments under the superintendence of Catholic Priests, having an extensive control over the neighboring bounds. The ground in the vicinity extending for miles, was irrigated, and cultivated by Indian labor, and the first towards domesticating the savage, has thus been already taken here. There are large numbers called Mission Indians who denominate themselves, with much pride Cristianos. I would recommend that the Government pursue the same plan on a more extended scale. Let fertile grounds be selected and proper buildings be erected to be set apart as bona-fide reservations, where the natives may be induced to come in to be fed occasionally: no force should be used except such as may be necessary to protect these Rendezvous and the Indians from the encroachment of the settler. The Agent in charge of such Rendezvous should be well remunerated and hold his office during good behavior – not to be removed after having become personally acquainted with the chiefs and understanding their views, wants, and language. He should be a permanent fixture, to be succeeded in Office by the individual next to him in position at the same establishment: thus preventing the constant change which requires a new beginning of acquaintance with the native, who can only have confidence in a white man whom he has known long. This Agent should be made responsible that justice was meted out to the Indian by the settlers, and he should have military force enough to secure respect to his authority among the whites.

With due caution and discretion on the part of the Agent, these Rendezvous would soon swarm with Indians: driven about as they now are a City of Refuge would be a blessing which they could not fail to appreciate. A church and religious ceremonies should be attached to each establishment and the Catholic form adopted, being the most attractive to the eyes and the Cristianos being already habituated to it.

By pursuing this plan, I believe that more control can be exercised over the Indians than by any other. The tone of the Indian is much more humble here than on the Atlantic side, many of them are now domesticated, making very tolerable servants. The parents are often glad of such an opportunity of providing for their children. The females make much better servants than the males, but both succeed sufficiently well. Many such servants might be furnished and thus, in time, the whole or greater part of these bands could be broken up, by detaching individuals when young and gradually dispersing them among the white population.

This plan I believe to be feasible if it be adopted at once and with vigor. But if matters are allowed to remain as they now are, there will be, in a few years, no Indians to govern.

I cannot assert that this plan will be popular, at first, but I believe the present administration to be strong enough to control the popular will to an extent hitherto unknown, and that it has the power as well as the inclination to do justice to the original owners of that soil to which the United States is indebted for its greatness and power – a greatness which can well afford to be magnanimous, and a power which should, and, I trust, will protect the remnants of the Indians from the outrages incessantly committed on them by the whites.

I am, very respectfully,  
Your obt. servant  
Morris S. Miller  
Capt. A.Q.M.

Historical notes:

Captain Morris's observation for making brick were insightful. There were multiple areas of commercial quality clay along the Sacramento River and extensive oak forests to fire the kilns. His observations were made about the time of the 1853 fire in Shasta. By 1855 there were twenty-eight brick buildings on Main Street in Shasta, with the brick and cement generally supplied by local kilns. The Holt & Gregg Company took advantage of the local material in 1887 with brick works in Anderson and Reading as well as limestone kilns at Kennett.

The Gentleman Captain Morris is referring to is Major Pierson B. Reading who experimented on numerous crops near Fort Reading. Reading who had been a broker around Vicksburg, Mississippi prior to moving to California attempted both cotton and tobacco production but neither became commercially valuable. The tobacco Captain Morris described being used by the Indians is commonly still called Indian Tobacco and three varieties were common below 8,000 feet especially in washes and valleys (excepting the Modoc Plateau). Some tribes such as the Karok burned off patches of land then scattered harvested seeds to improved production.

The volcanic rock used for chimneys was probably from the tuft deposits around the fork of Old Cow Creek and South Cow Creek. The gray tuft was easy to cut but hardened on exposure.

Morris in describing the oak orchards appears to be unaware that the indigenous peoples routinely utilized fire to create conditions that controlled oak diseases, fostered the production of acorns for their harvest, and made the surrounding land favorable to native grasses thus benefiting the deer, elk and antelope populations. As the traditional indigenous burning was displaced from the landscape thick undergrowth developed and after years without management the land became more susceptible to larger wildfires.

The treaty Captain Morris is talking about is the Treaty of Reading's Ranch signed on August 16, 1851, by Indian Agent O. M. Wozencraft that roughly set aside land from Ash Creek to the Pit River and inland about twenty five miles to the east of the Sacramento River for the various bands and provided for subsistence. A key clause stated the effective date was "as early as convenient after the ratification of this treaty by the President and Senate..." The Senate not only failed to ratify the treaty, they sealed the decision to keep the fact from the public. Captain Morris and Col. Wright were awaiting Indian agents to take over and feed the Indian population, and in their absence, they had to act in their stead.

## Page 13: Supplemental material on the Government Ferry

The Dictionary of Early Shasta County History states that the U. S. Government Ferry was built in 1853 and was larger than most ferries requiring two men to operate and that it was located a stone's throw from the privately operated Emigrant Ferry. The entry cites Colonel Wright as stating the ferry was the best on the Sacramento River and worth double the value of the nearby Emigrant Ferry.

It was known that when Lt. Nelson H. Davis was ordered to abandon Fort Far West near Marysville and establish Fort Reading in May of 1852 that he purchased a flat bottom boat for \$500 to aid in the crossing at Cow Creek. Davis' command traveled by river boat to Tehama County and could not establish a ferry at Cow Creek as the Quartermaster Department at Benicia Barracks failed to supply

the requested rope. It was suggested that the boat was later used on the Sacramento River at the mouth of Cow Creek but that may not be the case according to a letter from Captain Miller dated December 20<sup>th</sup> 1852.

*"The specifications were drawn up by me, assisted by my principal carpenter, and then submitted to Col. Wright before the boat was ordered – on ascertaining the price of the boat the amount was submitted to Col. Wright and sanctioned by him before the boat was built. The boat was large but not unwieldy, and requires two men.*

*I have repeatedly endeavored to save on the item of transportation by inducing teamsters and others bringing freight to cross at my ferry and deduct in their charge the amount their ferriage would cost but I have never been able to make the arrangement. In fact, there seems to be an impression that because the freight hauled was public, that the teams and wagons hauling should be ferried over gratis without benefit to the Government. As this would have worn out the boat and caused more expense for repairs, I prohibited the use of the boat except for the public train. An additional reason for my prohibition is that the private ferry, within a stone's throw, was established long before the Government Ferry. And the latter is not intended to interfere with the legitimate business of the former which would be the case were private teams allowed to cross free of charge. On this point, and when it was thought of locating the public ferry two miles from the private, a letter was addressed to Major Cross (the Chief Quartermaster at the Department of the Pacific) on the 21<sup>st</sup> Feby 1853 before the Govt. boat commenced running, to which he replied on March 10<sup>th</sup> 1853.*

Captain Miller and Asst. Surgeon John Campbell had a long-term feud concerning allegations that the surgeon inappropriately charges enlisted patients for medical care. In a letter of complaint Assistant Surgeon made the feud public when he addressed complaints about Captain Miller to the higher headquarters. Campbell's complaints also addressed the ferry: *"He (Captain Miller) pays these men \$75 and a ration per month amounting to \$1800 a year for pay alone, when the proprietor of the ferry boat nearby is willing to do the Government ferrying for \$1000 per annum."* Captain Miller addressed the issue in a letter to A. S. Wells dated January 26<sup>th</sup> 1854, and denied the allegations of Assistant Surgeon Campbell. It appears that the higher command took no action in regard to any of the various allegations. It would appear from Surgeon Campbell's assertion that the Government Ferry was operated by civilians employed by Fort Reading rather than by employing military personnel.

The Emigrant or Immigrant Ferry was established in 1852 by Drury D. Harrill & Company (Harrill, Samuel Francis, and Charles Smith) to transport travelers who were using the newly opened Noble's Trail. Francis and Smith sold their interest to A. S. Wells in 1853 and by 1854 Wells was the sole proprietor. The ferry became known as Wells' Ferry and when it was sold in 1881 to Frank Perry it continued to operate under the Wells name. The ferry was discontinued in 1886 at the completion of the Anderson Free Bridge.

## Page 18: Commanding officers, Letter from Colonel Wright Concerning the Indian Census 1854

Found among the papers of David DuBose loaned to Anderson Historical Society was a letter by the commander of Fort Reading, Major and Brevet Colonel George Wright, in response to a request of the Department of the Pacific commander, Colonel Ethan A. Hitchcock. The response was routed through the adjutant of the Department of the Pacific, Major Edward D. Townsend. All three of the officers would later serve as general officers in the Union Army.



The letter reads:

Headquarters, Fort Reading, California

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1854

Sir.

In compliance with your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup>, I have the honor to submit the following report of the Indians near this post.

Total number of Indians on Cottonwood Creek and west side	
Sacramento River.....	1500
Total number on the Sacramento, west side, from Red Bluffs to	
Mouth of Pitt River.....	1400
Total number on western slope of Sierra Nevada, from Antelope Creek	
to Pitt River, including the following streams with their tributaries,	
commencing from the south – Mill Creek, Battle Creek, Ash, Bear, and	
Cow Creek.....	3000
Pitt River from its junction with the Sacramento to Fall River	
Valley.....	1000
TOTAL.....	6900

In making the foregoing estimate, I have availed myself of the most reliable information to be had in this section of the country. Especially I am indebted to Major P. B. Reading, a well-informed gentleman who has resided in this District for the past ten years. I suppose that the number of warriors may be fairly estimated at one fifth of the whole population, which would give thirteen hundred and eighty within a circle of about fifty miles from this post.

The general disposition of all these Indians may be regarded as peaceful. The frequent collisions which take place between them and the white population, are the natural results of the encroachments of the latter. The Indians have been driven from their hunting and fishing grounds and at certain seasons of the year are entirely destitute of subsistence, hence thefts and robberies are a frequent occurrence. In retaliation, the whites people fall upon the Indians, and murder them indiscriminately, the innocent suffering alike with the guilty. I was in hope that the Superintendent would, before this, have visited this portion of the State, and commenced the system, which has been so successful in the South. The Indians embraced in this report are mostly armed with bows and arrows, but very few firearms are to be found among them.

The general disposition of the white people towards the Indians is not friendly, and I have no doubt that most of the difficulties with the latter, have been brought on by the wanton aggressions of the former.

I enclose herewith a copy of my report and letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> of August last, which embraced all the Indians in the Northern District, as far as could be ascertained at that time.

Very Respectfully

Your Most Obedient Servant, G. Wright

Major E. D. Townsend

San Francisco, California

The exact purpose of the letter is not indicated but it can be surmised that it may have been in preparation for an Inspector General's visit as Colonel Wright was addressing the entire command area rather than a specific incident. Colonel Joseph K. Mansfield did inspect the post in July 1854 and topics of discussion were the facts that no Indian Agent had ever visited the post and that U.S. Army officers were having to act as de facto Indian Agents. It may be coincidence but the next month after the inspection Superintendent of Indian Affairs Thomas J. Henley directed Subagent Henry Lewis Ford (accompanied by Captain Erasmus D. Keyes of the Presidio of San Francisco) to do a feasibility study concerning the establishment of a reservation in northern California. The study was positive and in January 1855 the Nome Lackee Reservation was established in Colusa County (later Tehama County) along with the military post of Camp Nome Lackee.

It is evident that Colonel Wright is referring in the letter to the Sebastian Indian Reservation (commonly called the Fort Tejon or just Tejon Indian Reservation) established in 1853. It is also evident that Colonel Wright is anticipating a reservation based on the Treaty of Peace signed at Reading's Ranch in August 1851 by U.S. Indian Agent O. M. Wozencraft and that he has no indication that the treaty was not ratified and was deliberately kept from public knowledge.

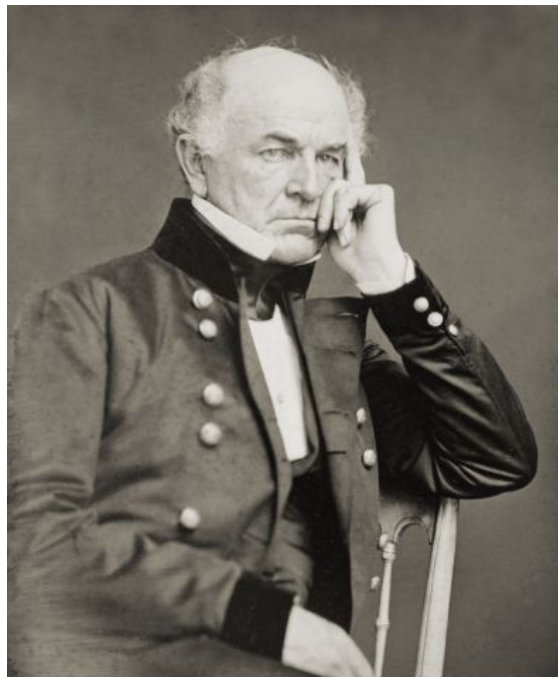
Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock was born in 1798 in Vermont. His mother was Lucy Caroline Allen (1768-1842) the daughter of Revolutionary War General Ethan Allen. Ethan graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1817 (17<sup>th</sup> in a class of 19) and was commissioned a 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant in the Corps of Artillery. In 1818 Ethan requested a transfer to the infantry and was appointed a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Ethan served at Mobile, Alabama and New Orleans, Louisiana before being appointed Regimental Adjutant. With the reorganization of the Army Ethan was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. Ethan served on recruiting duty, at the Bay of Saint Louis and at Baton Rouge, Louisiana before being appointed an Assistant Instructor of Infantry Tactics at the U. S. Military Academy. In December 1824 Ethan was promoted to captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment but was on recruiting duty until 1827 when he returned to the U.S. Military Academy as Commandant of Cadets. From 1834 to 1835 he served at Fort Crawford, Wisconsin before volunteering for the Seminole War in 1836. In Florida Ethan served at the fighting around Camp Izard where 1500 Seminole under Chiefs Osceola and Alligator laid siege to the temporary camp.

Ethan next served as Acting Inspector General of the Western Department and on the northern border during the Canada Border Disturbances before returning to Florida. Ethan was promoted to major in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and commanded the Western District of Florida. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry in 1842 and served at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. With the anticipated problems from the annexation of Texas he was sent to the border at Fort Jesup, Louisiana then from 1844 to 1845 he served in military operations in Texas.

After a period of illness Ethan returned for the Mexican War and was assigned as General Scott's inspector general. Nathan served at the Siege of Vera Cruz, and Battles of Cerro Gordo, Churubusco, Molina del Rey and was promoted brevet colonel for gallantry and meritorious service then brevet brigadier general. Ethan participated in the Storming of Chapultepec and the capture of Mexico City.

In 1851 Ethan was promoted to colonel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment then assigned as commander of the Pacific Division. Ethan was in command at the change to the Department of the Pacific and served until relieved by General Wool in 1854. After a short assignment in the east Ethan resigned in 1855 from the U. S. Army as a Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General to pursue academic pursuits.

At the beginning of the Civil War Ethan asked to be reassigned to the U.S. Army but was at first denied. After the intervention of his old commanding officer Lt. General Winfield Scott, Ethan was commissioned a major general of volunteers in February 1862. Ethan did not receive a field command but was appointed special advisor to the Secretary of War and Chairman of the War Board from March to July 1862. For the rest of the conflict Ethan served as Commissioner for Prisoner of War Exchange then Commissary-General of Prisoners. Ethan was mustered out of the U.S. Army in 1867 and moved to Charleston, South Carolina, then Sparta, Georgia. Colonel, Brevet Brigadier General USA, and Major General USV Ethan Hitchcock died in 1870 and was buried at West Point.



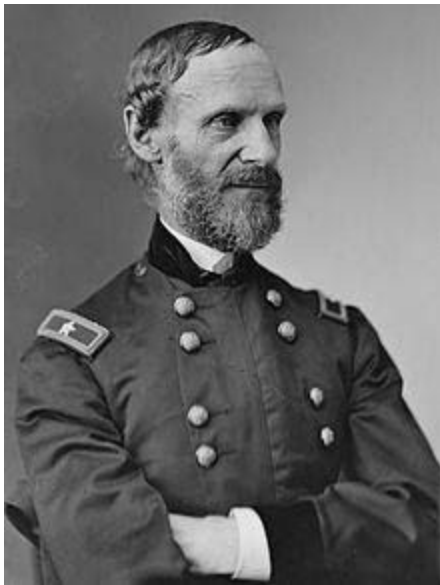
General Ethan A. Hitchcock

Major Edward D. Townsend: was born in 1817 in Massachusetts and was the grandson of Vice-President Elbridge Gerry (under President James Madison). Edward graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Regiment in 1837. Edward served in the Second Seminole War (1837-1838) and the relocation of the Cherokee Nation (1838). While transferring the Cherokee west of the Mississippi he was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. Edward was appointed Regimental Adjutant and served on the northern frontier during the Canada Border Disturbances. For a period, Edward was in command of the Depot of Recruits at Ft. Columbus, New York. In August of 1846 Edward transferred from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery to the Adjutant Generals Office. Edward was promoted to captain in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery but opted to remain a Brevet Captain of staff at the Adjutant Generals Office in Washington, D.C. In November 1851 Edward was

transferred to the Pacific Division as Assistant Adjutant General and promoted to Brevet Major of staff. Nathan served in the Pacific Division until January 1856.

The Department of the Pacific was created in October 1853 to replace the older Pacific Division created in 1848. The headquarters in March 1854 were in San Francisco but were moved in September to Benicia Barracks. Nathan first served on the staff of Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock but after a change of command served under Major General John E. Wool. Edward may have accompanied General Wool when he inspected Fort Reading in October 1854. From 1855 to 1857 the Department of the Pacific headquarters was moved to the Puget Sound District in Washington to be closer to Native American disturbances.

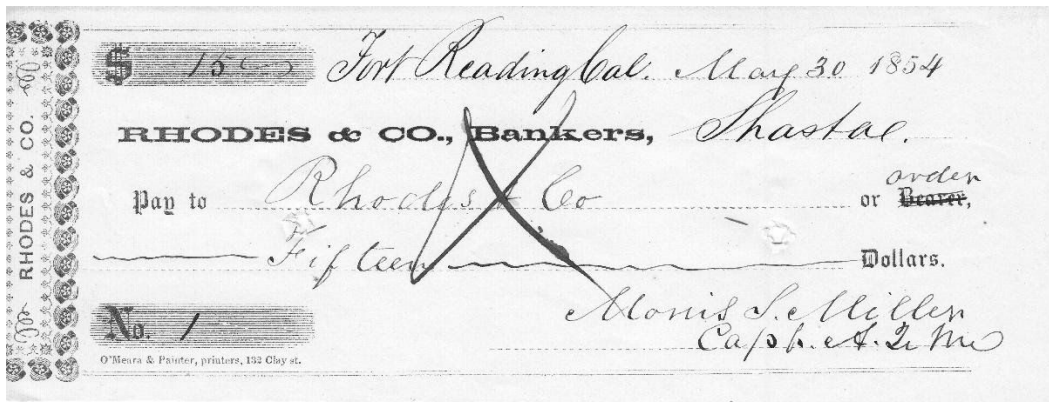
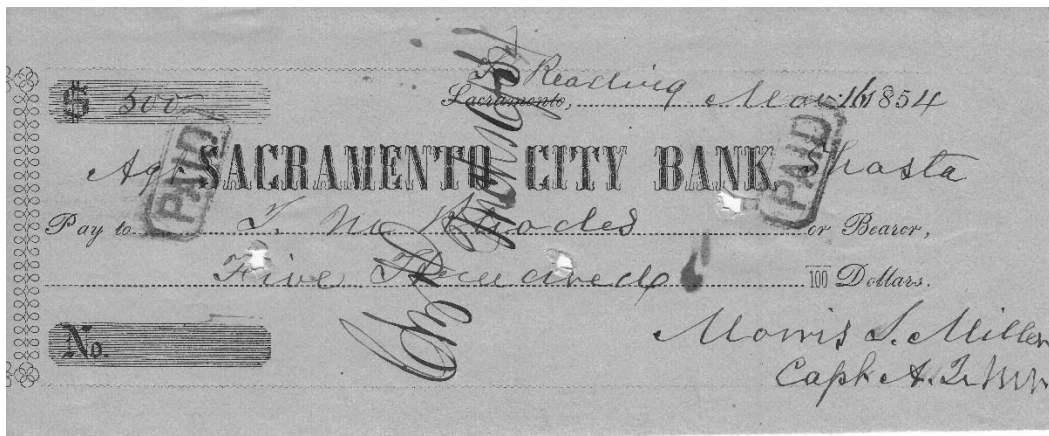
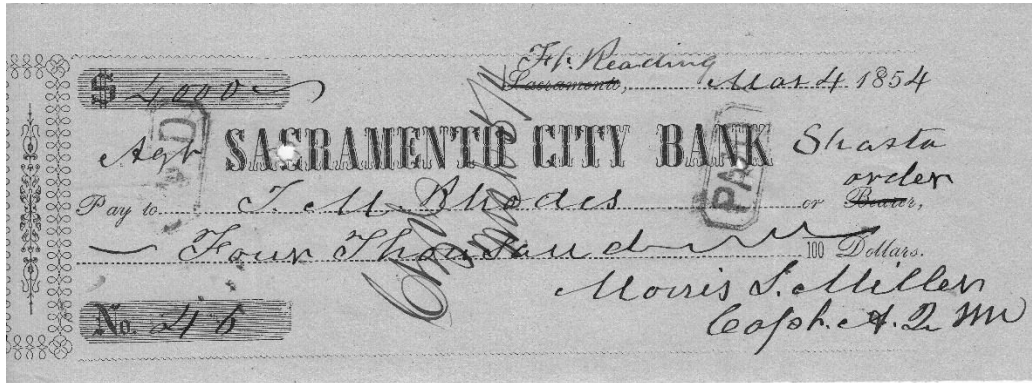
Edward returned to the Adjutant Generals Office in Washington, D.C. in January 1856. Edward remained at the Adjutant Generals Office until March 1861 when he served for a short time as Chief of Staff for Army Commander Lt. General Scott. In August 1861 Edward was promoted to Colonel of staff and was assigned to the Adjutant Generals Office in Washington, D.C. In March 1863 Edward was appointed Acting Adjutant General of the Army. He received a brevet promotion to brigadier general in 1864 and another in 1865 to major general for meritorious and faithful service during the Rebellion (Civil War). In February 1869 Edward was appointed Adjutant General of the Army with the rank of brigadier general of staff. Nathan served as Adjutant General until June 1880 when he was retired due to reaching the age of sixty-two. General Townsend died in Washington, D.C. in 1893 after an accidental shock from a cable car.

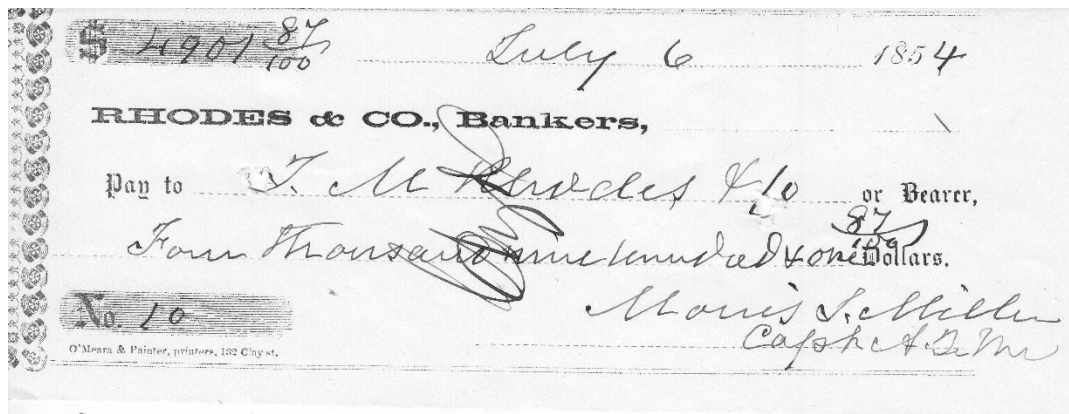
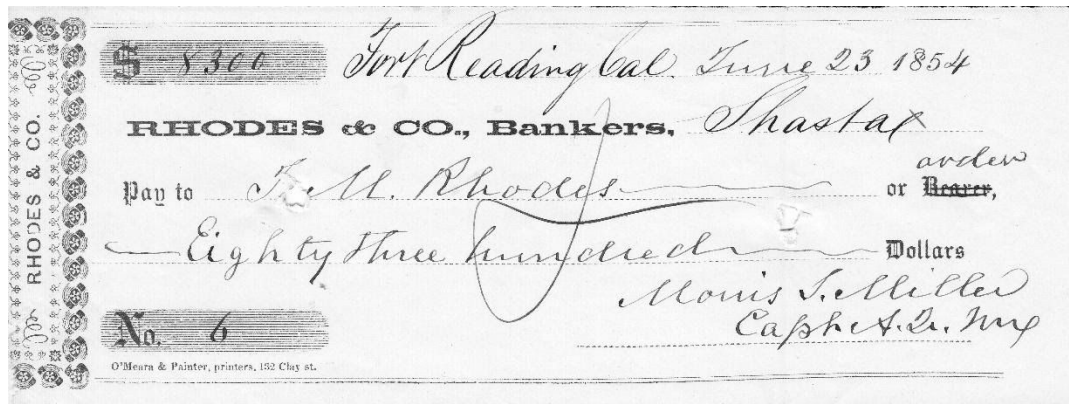
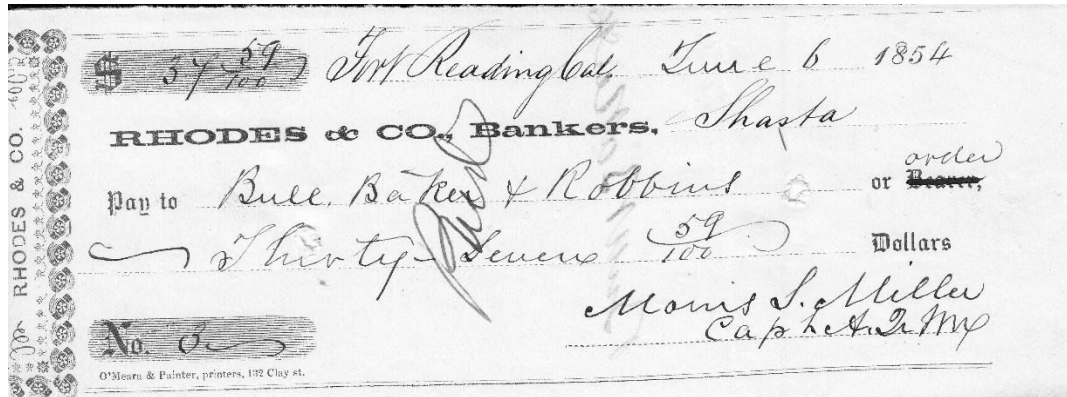


Edward D. Townsend as a Brigadier General

## Page 20: Commanding Officer Captain Robert H. Chapin.

Post returns for Fort Reading dated January 1857, identify Captain Robert H. Chapin's middle name: the report is signed R. Hunter Chapin.





Six checks written by Captain Morris S. Miller. Courtesy of Ralph Hollibaugh.

The six checks above were all written by Captain Morris S. Miller in his capacity as Quartermaster at Fort Reading. Four of the checks were payable to J. M. Rhodes, one to Rhodes & Company, and one to Bull, Baker & Robbins. These and other checks indicate that the Military District of Northern California used Rhodes and Lusk, Rhodes and Company or the Sacramento City Bank almost exclusively as their banking service during the period that Fort Reading was an active military post.

In April 1852 James M. Rhodes and Hiram Lusk formed the Rhodes & Lusk Express Company that operated daily stages from Sacramento to Marysville, Tehama, Shasta and north to Yreka and Jacksonville, Oregon. The company was located at Shasta and had a line that connected to

Weaverville. The company connected to Wells, Fargo & Company at Sacramento for San Francisco. From a March 1852 announcement, the company was a branch of the Sacramento City Bank (Rhodes, Purdy and McNulty). The Rhodes of the Sacramento City Bank was James' brother John Milton Rhodes. Quickly the two entities became separate but maintained a business relationship. In February 1854 the Rhodes & Lusk Express Company was dissolved and James Rhodes continued the business under the name of Rhodes & Company (for a short period Jas. M. Rhodes Express was utilized). In July 1855 James sold the company to his uncle, Jesse Rhodes and Cornelius S. Whitney and the name changed to Rhodes & Whitney's Express. In December 1855 Whitney withdrew and the name returned to Rhodes & Company until 1857.

James moved to Sacramento to become a clerk in the State Treasurer's Office with the aid of his brother John. The bond to put Henry Bates into the office of State Treasurer was provided by John. Within a short period, Bates was being impeached for missing funds and John, who was responsible for the bond, was facing a run on the Sacramento City Bank. The house of cards built by the Rhodes family crashed in 1857 when both Sacramento City Bank and Rhodes & Company closed their doors.

Alpheus Bull was born in 1816 in New York, arrived in Shasta County in 1849, and mined at Nigger Hill near Watson Gulch. He amassed enough wealth to open the Bull, Baker & Company in 1853 with George Baker and William Robbins. Baker was assigned to San Francisco and acted as the procuring agent, Bull received the supplies brought by steamer at their Red Bluff store and transported part of them onward to the Shasta store operated by Robbins. The company soon expanded to include live-stock, produce and operated a flour mill and bakery at Red Bluff. The Shasta store burned in the fire of 1853 and was replaced with a fireproof brick building that is still partially intact at the Shasta State Park. Bull sold his interest in the company in 1857 to J. Granville Doll and settled in San Francisco where he co-founded the Bank of California, Pacific Insurance Company, and the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

Norris S. Miller had been appointed a staff captain in the Quartermaster Corps in 1845 and was known for his meticulous bookkeeping and attention to solving logistical problems. He was assigned to the Pacific Division in 1852 and was selected by Lt. Colonel George Wright to be part of his staff for the newly formed Military District of Northern California that included all of California north of Sacramento as well as southern Oregon. The trust placed in Miller was well founded as a comment made at the end of the Civil War would demonstrate: "after four years, during which \$20,000,000 (\$319,361,963.19 today) passed through his hands and an examination of his accounts showed that less than \$20 was to be disallowed."

Morris Smith Miller was born in 1814 in New York. He was the son of Judge Morris Smith Miller 1779-1829 and Marie Bleecker 1780-1850. In July 1830 he was appointed to the U. S. Military Academy and served as a cadet until July 1834. In July 1834 Morris was appointed a Brevet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery and posted to Fort Monroe, Virginia. In 1835 Morris was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Seminole War (Florida War 1835-1842) and served until 1836. Morris was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in December 1835. In 1836 Morris was placed on recruiting duty, then ordnance duty from March 1837 to June 1838. Morris was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in August 1837. During the Canada Border Disturbances in 1838, Morris was appointed Chief Commissary Officer and Quartermaster of the Northern Frontier. In January 1839 Morris was appointed Aide de Camp to Major General Alexander Macomb, Commanding General of the Army. Morris would serve with Macomb in Florida until the general's death in June 1841. It should be noted that in January 1841, Morris married Jane Octavia Macomb 1822-1900, the daughter of General Macomb.

From June 1841 to 1843 Morris was assigned to Fort McHenry, Maryland and from 1843 to 1845 Fort Moultrie, South Carolina. In September 1845, Morris took a promotion to staff captain in the Quartermaster Corps and was assigned duty at Charleston, South Carolina. At the outbreak of the Mexican War in April 1846 Morris returned as a captain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery. It appears the U. S. Army command thought his quartermaster skills were more important because by June 1846 he was posted to Philadelphia, then New York City. It was not until the close of the Mexican War that Morris got close to the war zone with a transfer to Camp Jefferson Davis in East Pascagoula, Mississippi. From late 1848 to 1849 Morris was assigned to San Antonio, Texas. From 1849 to 1852 Morris was assigned to Savannah, Georgia.

In 1852 Morris was transferred to the Pacific Division where Lt. Colonel Wright selected him for his staff. Captain Miller joined the post at Fort Reading on 29 September, 1852, and served as district quartermaster until 11 January 1855. Captain Miller's next assignment was in Washington, D. C. in charge of the Clothing Bureau.

Morris was still at Washington, D. C. at the beginning of hostilities in the Civil War. After the attack in Baltimore, Maryland upon Massachusetts Volunteers trying to reach Washington, Morris was dispatched to Annapolis to organize another route. On his second attempt he was successful in getting troops through for the defense of the capital. Morris was promoted to staff major in the Quartermaster Corps in May 1861. From 1861 to 1864 Morris was Quartermaster of Washington, D.C. From 1864 to June 1866 Morris was assigned to the Board for the Examination of Quartermasters in the Department of Arkansas, then the Department of the Gulf, and finally in the Department of the East. In March 1865 Morris received brevet promotions to Lt. Colonel, Colonel, and Brigadier General for faithful and meritorious service in the Quartermaster Department. From June 1866 to March 1869, Morris served in the Quartermaster General's Office in Washington, D. C. Morris was promoted to staff Lt. Colonel in July 1866. In April 1869 Morris was assigned as Chief Quartermaster in the 5<sup>th</sup> Military District in Texas serving until February 1870. In March 1870, Lt. Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General Morris S. Miller died in New Orleans, Louisiana.

## Page 31: Colonel Henry Lee Scott

When Company D, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was transferred to Fort Reading, California in July 1854, then Captain Henry Lee Scott was listed as detached service as Aide de Camp to General Winfield Scott. From the personnel reports from Fort Reading, Captain Scott was assigned to Ft. Reading but never actually served at the post.

## Page 36: Junior Officer, Assistant Surgeon Charles P. Deyerle





Assistant Surgeon Charles P. Deyerle  
with a Virginia Military Institute Sword

In the personnel records for Fort Reading dated October 1852 it is noted that Assistant Surgeon, Medical Corps, Charles P. Deyerle was transferred to Benicia Barracks on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Deyerle had arrived at Fort Reading on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1852, so he was only assigned to Fort Reading for ten days.

Charles Poage Deyerle was born in Virginia in 1820. He was the son of Joseph Deyerle 1799-1877, a prominent farmer, and Annie Crawford 1800-1871. Charles reported to the first class of cadets at the Virginia Military Institute in November 1839. During his term he was one of the cadets that appealed to the federal government to have the graduates of VMI treated on par with graduates of the U. S. Military Academy as the courses were identical. VMI was at the time a three-year program and the first class was about 25 cadets. Sixteen cadets graduated in July 1842 including Charles Deyerle. Charles next attended Jefferson Medical College (now Thomas Jefferson University) in Philadelphia. Upon graduation Charles applied for service in the U.S. Army and was quickly accepted and assigned for service in Mexico as war had been declared in May 1846.

Charles was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Regiment, part of which did not leave New York until September 1846. Companies A, C, G, and K were assigned to General William Worth's Division, under overall command of General Winfield Scott. Charles was believed to have joined his unit after the Battle of Monterey in September 1846 but was believed to have participated at the Siege of Vera Cruz in March 1847, the Battle of Cerro Gordo in April 1847, the Battle of Contreras in August 1847, the Battle of Churubusco in August 1847, and at Mexico City in September 1847. By family history Charles was listed with the rank of major rather than as a lieutenant, the beginning rank of an assistant surgeon. The difference in rank probably stems from a notation in the personnel report of Benicia Barracks dated August 1850 where Charles appears to be listed as "Major Surgeon." In the reports both before and after August 1850, Charles is always listed as Assistant Surgeon.

By history Charles was associated with the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment that joined General Worth's Division in August 1847. It is likely that Charles remained with the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry during the occupation of Mexico and was with the regiment when they started to march north in January 1848. By July 1848 the regiment was concentrated at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri before the companies were assigned from Minnesota to the Indian Territory.

In October 1848, Charles was at Fort Hamilton in New York probably awaiting shipment to California. On July 22, 1849, Charles reported to Benicia Barracks in Solano County. From July 1849 to December 1851 Charles was listed at Benicia Barracks. In September and October 1852 Charles was at Fort Reading but was back at Benicia Barracks in December 1852. Charles appears to have been transferred to Humboldt Bay (Fort Humboldt was established in January 1853) as he was listed on the personnel report of Benicia Barracks for October 1853 as "joined from Humboldt Bay sick; died October 30, 1853." By family history Charles' brother James came to California and brought the remains back to Virginia to be buried in the family plot.

## Page 36: Junior Officer, Surgeon William F. Edgar



Surgeon William F. Edgar

William Francis Edgar was born in 1823 in Kentucky and moved with his family to Missouri as a child. William graduated from the University of Louisville in 1848 as a physician. In March 1849 William was commissioned an Assistant Surgeon and assigned to the U.S. Cavalry en route to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. At Kansas William joined the Regiment of Mounted Rifles (the difference between Dragoons, Mounted Rifles and Cavalry was essentially the type of weapons assigned) that were marching to the mouth of the Columbia River. En route the regiment left garrisons at Fort Laramie, then Fort Hall on the Snake River. William was assigned to Fort Hall with two companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mounted Rifle Regiment. William took part in the expedition to Utah in April 1851.

In May 1851 the 1<sup>st</sup> Mounted Rifles were ordered to Jefferson Barracks in Missouri where the personnel were reassigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoon Regiment that was being transferred to California. The majority of officers were transferred by ship via the Isthmus of Panama but William appears to have traveled overland with the command of Brevet Major Philip Kearney (later Major General Kearney). The unit was assigned to the Rogue River Expedition before reaching Benicia Barracks in July 1851. Almost immediately William was transferred to Sonoma Barracks then later in 1851 to Fort Miller in Madera County.

William joined the garrison at Fort Reading on 20 March 1854, and was assigned to the Rogue River Expedition before transferred to Fort Tejon. During his first winter at Fort Tejon, William responded to assist an injured party and suffered severe exposure. The result was a period of paralysis in December 1854 and a slow recovery. In 1855 William was transferred to Washington Territory, then in 1856 to Jefferson Barracks, then Texas and Florida, before being assigned to New York on the sick list. By

1857, William had sufficiently recovered to be assigned to California. William was posted to Fort Miller, Presidio of San Francisco, Benicia Barracks and San Diego and took part in operations against Indians in Oregon in 1857 and against the Mojave in 1858.

William was promoted to Surgeon in May 1861, about the time he and most federal troops were ordered east for the Civil War. William's initial assignment was with the Army of the Potomac but he was quickly transferred to General Don Carlos Buell's Army of Ohio that was operating in Kentucky. William organized a hospital in Louisville, Kentucky before being appointed Medical Director for the District of Cairo, Illinois. William suffered a relapse of the paralysis and was placed on the retired list in July 1864.

After a period of recuperation, William worked in the office of the Medical Director of New York City as an examining surgeon. By January 1866, William had recovered enough to return to active duty at Fort Miller in Madera County. William served for a further three years before retiring to a ranch he purchased in Los Angeles County. William died on 23 August 1897, in Los Angeles County.

## Page 36: Junior Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George Frederick Evans

On the personnel report for Fort Reading dated February 1853, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George F. Evans was listed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Dragoons and on sick leave. The notation cited that he had been on sick leave since October 1850. In researching the notation it was found that officers were assigned to a particular regiment and would be reported on the strength of that regiment as on leave, sick, or on detached duties until they transferred to a new regiment or branch, retired, or died in service. Captain Henry L. Scott was one such case at Ft. Reading: he was assigned to Company D, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment but was on detached duty in Washington as Aide de Camp to the Commanding General of the U. S. Army. Until Company D was transferred he was carried on the strength of Fort Reading. Another such officer was Captain George C. Westcott who was away on recruiting duty and had the misfortune to die on the steamer on his way to report to Fort Reading. Until the official notification of death Captain was carried on the strength of Fort Reading. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. George Frederick Evans falls into this select group of officers assigned to Fort Reading without ever having served at Fort Reading.

George Frederick Evans was born in 1823 in Maine and was the son of George Evans 1797-1867. George's father was the U.S. Representative from Maine from 1829 to 1841, U. S. Senator from Maine from 1841 to 1847, and later Attorney General of Maine. From September 5, 1842, to July 1, 1846, George was a cadet at the U. S. Military Academy. On July 1, 1846, George was commissioned a Brevet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Dragoons. At the beginning of the Mexican War the regiment was divided with Companies A and E assigned to General Zachary Taylor, three companies assigned to General Scott, and five companies to the Army of the West. Lt. Evans was in Company A with General Taylor in northern Mexico and he participated in the Battle of Buena Vista in February 1847. George received a brevet promotion to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. for gallantry and meritorious conduct at the Battle of Buena Vista. George was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in October 1847.

Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Dragoons was listed as being on frontier duty on the March to California in 1848. Upon reaching California, George was assigned to Los Angeles then San Diego. George was listed as escorting the Boundary Commission in 1849 to 1850 before returning to San Diego. The commission established the boundary between Mexico and the United States from San Diego to the Gila River in Arizona. George was next assigned to the Indian Sub-agency at San Luis Rey before returning home on sick leave in October 1850. George remained on sick leave until his death in 1859 without ever serving at his assignment at Fort Reading

## Page 36: Junior Officer, Brevet Brigadier General Oliver D. Greene, Medal of Honor



Brevet Brigadier General USA Oliver D. Greene.

Oliver D. Greene was born in New York in 1833 and his middle name was variously given as Duff and Davis (Davis being on the grave). He was appointed from New York to the U. S. Military Academy where he was a cadet from July 1849 to July 1854. In July 1854 Oliver was commissioned a Brevet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant of Artillery and assigned to Fort Reading. Oliver was on sick leave from August 1854 to November 1854 so he did not report to duty until about December 1854. Oliver was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in November 1854 and in early 1855 transferred to Fort Washita in the Indian Territory. From 1856 into 1857 Oliver was assigned to Ft. Monroe, Virginia.

In 1857 Oliver was assigned to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas and was active in the Kansas Disturbances (Bloody Kansas). In 1858 Oliver was assigned to Carlisle Barracks in Pennsylvania for a short period before being sent on the Expedition to Utah, then Fort Leavenworth and finally Ft. Riley, Kansas. In 1859 Oliver returned to Ft. Leavenworth before being assigned in November 1859 to the Coast Survey (serving until April 1861). Oliver was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery in April 1861.

During the Civil War, Oliver was first assigned to the Army of the Potomac for the defense of Washington. Oliver took part in the Manassas Campaign in July 1861, including the Battle of Bull Run where he commanded Company G. In August 1861 Oliver took a promotion to staff captain in the Adjutant General's Corps. His first assignment was Adjutant General of the Department of the Cumberland from November 1861 to July 1862, when he went on sick leave for two months. Oliver was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel of Volunteers by General Don Carlos Buell and assigned as Adjutant General of the 6<sup>th</sup> Corps. Oliver participated in the Maryland Campaign where he was present at the Battle of South Mountain and Antietam. At the Battle of Antietam, Oliver was also Chief of Staff for Major General William B. Franklin. The 6<sup>th</sup> Corps was in reserve but engaged during the back and forth fighting. Oliver was recommended for the new Medal of Honor with the simple citation, "formed the columns under heavy fire and put them into position." The medal was not awarded to Oliver until December 1893.

In July 1862 Oliver had been promoted to major of staff in the Regular Army. After Antietam Oliver returned to the Adjutant General Corps in the Regular Army and was assigned to an inspection tour of the Department of the South from December 1862 to May 1863. From May 1863 to August 1863 Oliver was assisting at the Adjutant General's office in Washington, D. C. From August 1863 to May of 1864 Oliver was Adjutant General of the Department of Missouri. For a period, Oliver returned to duty as a captain of artillery then took a leave of absence. At the conclusion of the Civil War Oliver was given promotions to Brevet Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General for his services.

In September 1866 Oliver resumed assignments as a major in the Adjutant General Corps. From September 1866 to June 1884 he had a succession of assignments as Adjutant General in the Department of Arkansas, Department of Dakota, Department of the Gulf, Department of the South, and Department of Columbia. Oliver was an assistant to the Adjutant General in Washington, D. C. from June 1884 to October 1888 and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in February 1887. In October 1888 Oliver was assigned as Adjutant General of the Department of Missouri and from 1890 to 1897 Adjutant General of the Department of California. Oliver was promoted to colonel in July 1892. On Oliver's birthday in 1897 he was retired after reaching the maximum service age of sixty-four. Oliver and his wife Kate Rich 1840-1898 retired to San Francisco where Oliver died in 1904.



The Medal of Honor as issued from 1862-1896. The ribbon was changed in 1896 but the medal did not take its current form until 1904.

## Page 36: Junior Officer, Captain Isaiah N. Moore

Isaiah N. Moore was born about 1827 in Pennsylvania. He was the son of Robert Moore who died in 1842 and Margaret Moore 1800-1877. Isaiah was appointed to the U. S. Military Academy from Pennsylvania and served as a cadet from July 1847 to July 1851. Upon graduation Isaiah was commissioned a Brevet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoon Regiment. Company A and D of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons were assigned to California and Isaiah appears to have joined the command at Ft. Columbus, New York awaiting transportation. Isaiah was on the personnel report for March 1853 at Fort Reading but was ordered to Fort Jones in April 1853. Isaiah was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in February 1853. In July 1853 Isaiah

was listed as away from Fort Jones for operations along the Rogue River and the founding of Fort Lane. Isaiah appears to have remained at Fort Lane, Oregon until 1854 when he was transferred to New Mexico.

From 1854 to 1858 Isaiah was stationed at Las Lunas and Camp Moore in New Mexico and Fort Buchanan in Arizona (then New Mexico Territory) and promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. in March 1855. Isaiah was involved in the skirmish at Almagre Mountains in 1856, the Gila Expedition against Apache in 1857, and the skirmish at the Huachague Mountains in 1858. From 1858 to 1860 Isaiah was detached on recruiting duty for the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons. After recruiting duty Isaiah worked at the Board for the Trial of Small Arms and at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas before returning to Fort Buchanan.

At the beginning of the Civil War 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Moore was at Fort Breckenridge in the Gadsden Purchase area of southern New Mexico. When the decision was made to destroy this and other forts in the area to prevent them from falling into Confederate hands, Isaiah as a newly promoted captain led four companies in a withdrawal to Fort Craig. In July 1861 Ft. Craig in the Rio Grande Valley was the largest post in the New Mexico Territory with over 2,000 military personnel. In August 1861 Isaiah's regimental assignment changed to the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Cavalry when the U.S. Army consolidated the two dragoon regiments and the mounted infantry regiment. Fort Craig was poised to oppose the slightly larger Confederate Army of New Mexico under Henry Hopkins Sibley advancing up the Rio Grande Valley from the newly established Confederate Territory of Arizona. Captain Moore was part of the defense of Fort Craig but missed the Battle of Valverde in February 1862 due to his sudden death on January 16, 1862. The Confederate forces won the battle but after losing their supply train they were unable capture Fort Craig.

## Page 45: Supplemental officer, Contract Surgeon William N. Guptill

William Neil (Neal) Guptill was one of California's all-around men: physician, Justice of the Peace, farmer. William was born in 1814 in Maine (which was still part of Massachusetts until 1820). In 1839 and 1840 he was a student at Bowdoin College (Medical School of Maine) in Brunswick, Maine. He was not listed in the 1850 U.S. Census for California or the 1852 California State Census. He was living in Millville by February 1857, as he was a contract physician at Fort Reading in the absence of a military surgeon. In the U.S. Census of 1860. he was listed living alone as a physician in Millville.

From a marriage record William was Justice of the Peace as early as 1861 as he performed the marriage of John Geho and Sarah Stout in Millville. From recorded deeds William was still Justice of the Peace at Millville in 1864.

On September 8, 1864, Mrs. Catherine Allen (nee Boyce) was home with her four children, Lilly age five, John age three and a half, James age two and Robert just seven months old at their home about twelve miles east of Millville on Old Cow Creek (then called Big Cow Creek). William Allen was stacking hay about three miles away in Basin Hollow. There are various versions of what happened next but two Native Americans entered the cabin and shot Mrs. Allen in the head and beat the older two children with a gun. The younger two children were beaten against a hearth and James was stomped with nailed boots and all were left for dead. A neighbor and cousin of Mrs. Allen came by the cabin to borrow some tools while the Native Americans were still present and was shot and wounded but made it to the road and hailed a lumber wagon. The driver drove to Basin Hollow to contact Mr. Allen and set off the alarm. Dr. Guptill of Millville was sent for to attend the survivors. All four children and the

cousin were saved even though one needed a silver plate to close a hole in his skull. Mrs. Allen could not be saved. Dr. Guptill also wrote the inquiry into the death of Mrs. Allen as the local Justice of the Peace and forwarded it to the Coroner.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> Mrs. John Jones was killed in Bear Valley about four miles from Copper City. In response to the two killings, two companies of volunteer "militia" (the Millville and Copper City Volunteers) were raised and ranged throughout Shasta, Tehama and Trinity County targeting Native Americans especially Yana. About five hundred Native American predominantly women and children were killed before the hunt ended. It was later established that the Yana were not involved in the incident.

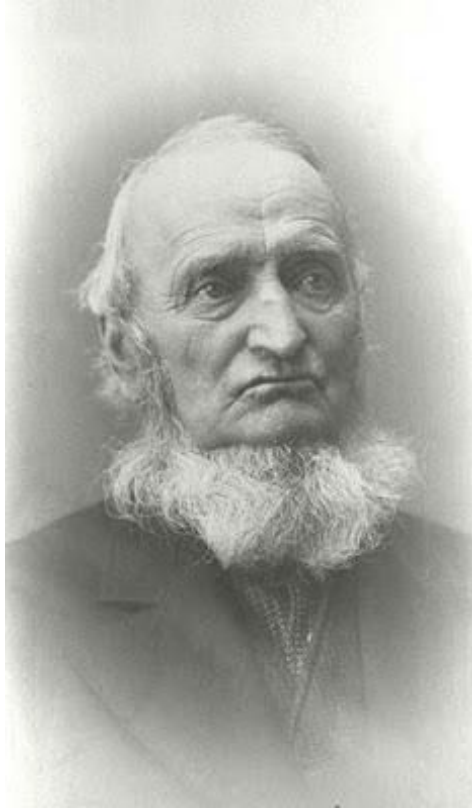
On August 16, 1866, Mrs. Anna Marie Dersch was severely wounded by Native Americans and found by a neighbor. The neighbor went to find Mr. Dersch who was in Shingletown procuring lumber and sent his wife to contact Dr. Guptill at Millville. Dr. Guptill arrived quickly but was unable to save Mrs. Dersch who passed away the next morning.

The Free and Accepted Masons Northern Light Lodge #190 received a waiver to form a lodge in May 1868. The lodge was regularly instituted in November 1868 with Dr. William N. Guptill transferring from Western Star Lodge #2 in Shasta. Dr. Guptill became secretary of the new lodge and the first representative to the Grand Lodge.

From 1866 to 1870 William was listed as a physician in Millville. In 1870 William purchased eighty acres of land from the Government Land Office. The patent was for the East half of the northeast quarter of section 15 in Township 31 North Range 3 West MDM at Millville.

According to a Weekly Shasta Courier article William filled a short-term vacancy as County Judge for William E. Hopping. This would have been between 1872 to 1880. The same article cited William ran unsuccessfully for County Clerk

In the 1880 U. S. Census Dr. Guptill was listed as a physician and Justice of the Peace at Millville. William was living at Overmyer's Farmer's Hotel. In 1886 William registered to vote as a clerk in Millville at about age seventy-two. William was noted for being generous with his money and services and there was a note that in December 1888 the Northern Light Lodge voted to provide him with one-month's lodging, drugs and clothing due to illness. A Weekly Shasta Courier Obituary dated 1890 stated that Dr. Guptill had died. William was reported buried in the Millville Masonic Cemetery without a marker. The burial is not listed in the Shasta County Cemetery Index and the gravesite is now lost. Dr. Guptill was not known to have married and his death was a sad end to at least twenty-nine years of service to Millville and Shasta County.



Doctor William N. Guptill

#### Page 45: Supplemental officer, Contract Surgeon Alanson Smith.

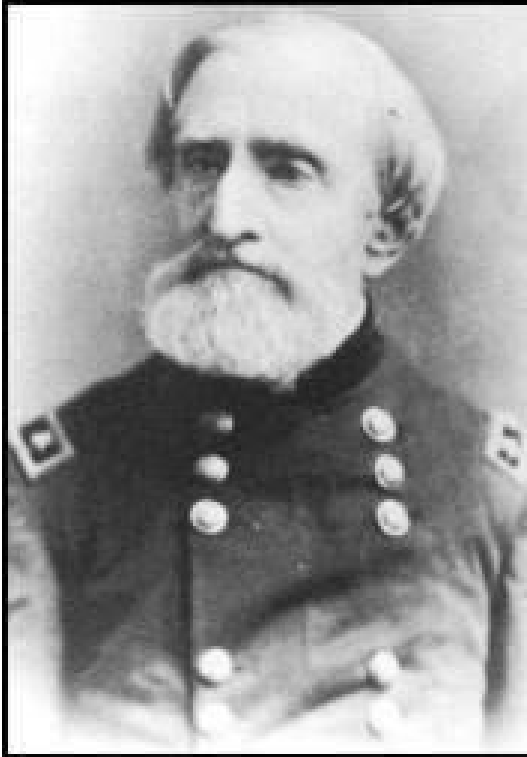
Only limited data was found about Alanson Smith. On the 1850 U. S. Census Alanson was listed as a trader in Butte County born about 1802. In January 1857 Dr. Alanson Smith was hired as a contract physician at Fort Reading in the absence of a Medical Corps Assistant Surgeon or Surgeon. In February 1857, Dr. Guptill was the contract physician at Fort Reading. Alanson was listed in the 1860 U. S. Census as a physician in Cottonwood born about 1805 in Connecticut. In 1860 Alanson was living with two laborers and appears single. Alanson was still in Shasta County in 1863 as he paid his Civil War taxes. On the January 1867 personnel report for Troop G, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment at Fort Reading, Alanson is again listed as a "citizen physician" paid at \$100 per month. The employment could not have lasted long as Troop G was reassigned to Fort Whipple, Arizona in June 1867 and Fort Reading closed. Nothing was found on Alanson after January 1867: he is not listed in the 1870 U.S. Census or in cemetery records for Shasta County.

#### Page 45: Supplemental officer, Brevet Major General Thomas Swords

In reviewing records pertaining to Fort Reading obtained from Ralph Holibaugh it was discovered that Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Sword inspected the post as part of his duties as Chief Quartermaster of the Department of California and Southern Oregon later the Department of the Pacific from 1852 to 1861. The inspection tour seems to have been made as Fort Reading was about to be closed in early 1856. It was LTC. Swords responsibility to provide a civilian caretaker for the post as it



was not to be returned to the public domain. LTC. Swords appointed J. B. Vinton in March 1856. When Mr. Vinton resigned it was LTC. Swords who appointed James L. Hart in March 1859 and subsequently William Bennett in November 1860.



Brevet Major General Thomas Swords

Thomas Swords was born in November 1806 in New York. His father was Thomas Swords, a senior member of the prominent New York publishing firm of T & J Swords. Thomas' grandfather was Captain Thomas Swords, a British officer, who died in New York in 1780 (the occupation of the British army lasted from 1776 to November 25, 1783).

At the age of twenty-three Thomas graduated from the U. S. Military Academy and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. For the next four years Thomas served in garrison at Fort Mitchell, Alabama, then in operations in the Cherokee Nation, Fort Brooke, Florida, and Containment Clinch in Florida. From November 1832 to March 1883 Thomas was assigned to engineer duty.

In 1833 Thomas was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. and assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoon Regiment at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. Thomas transferred to Fort Gipson in the Indian Territory and was on the Expedition to the Tow-e-ash Villages before being assigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas as Assistant Quartermaster

in 1834. In 1837 Thomas was promoted to Captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons with duties as quartermaster. In 1838 Thomas transferred from the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons to staff captain in the Quartermaster Corps.

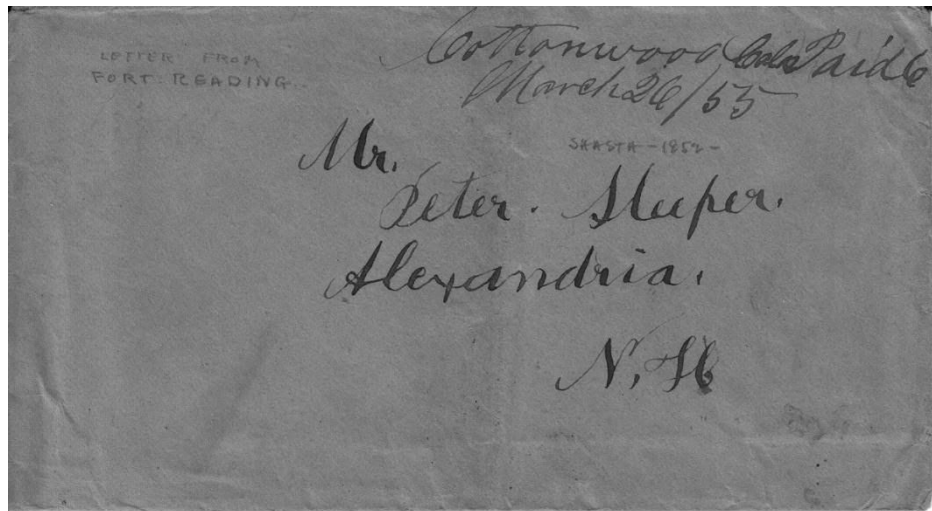
In 1838 Thomas married Charlotte Augusta Cotheal (1817-1888) the daughter of David Cotheal 1787-1864 and Charlotte Burrow 1792-1855. David and his brother Henry were prominent ship merchants in South America. After the marriage Thomas returned to Fort Leavenworth as quartermaster and served on the Great Plains until 1842 when he was assigned to superintend the construction of Fort Scott in Kansas. In April 1846 Thomas was promoted to staff major in the Quartermaster Corps just as the troops were withdrawn from Fort Scott. Thomas was assigned as Quartermaster of the Army of the West under Colonel Stephen Kearney. The command marched from Kansas to Santa Fe in New Mexico and captured the town. Kearney's command next marched to San Diego, California where Thomas was engaged in the Battle of San Pasqual on December 6, 1846. After the battle Thomas was sent to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) to procure food and clothing for the troops. Thomas returned via San Francisco before marching back to Fort Leavenworth with then Brigadier-General Kearney (and Colonel John C. Fremont). In May 1848 Thomas was promoted to brevet lieutenant colonel for meritorious conduct and assigned to a shot tour of duty at Vera Cruz, Mexico before moving to the Quartermaster General's Office in Washington, D. C.

Thomas was assigned to St. Louis, Missouri from 1850 to 1851 and completed an inspection of the Department of New Mexico before being assigned to New York City. From 1852 to September 1861 Thomas was assigned as Chief Quartermaster of the District of California and Southern Oregon where his duties took him to Fort Reading for an inspection. Thomas remained at his post as Chief Quartermaster when the command became the Department of the Pacific. In 1856 Thomas was promoted to staff lieutenant colonel and in August 1861 was promoted to staff colonel and Assistant Quartermaster General.

During the Civil War Thomas was first assigned to the Department of the Cumberland from October to November 1861, then the Department of the Ohio from November 1861 to May 1863. Thomas was Supervising Quartermaster of the Department of the Cumberland from May to November 1863 and the Department of the Ohio from May 1863 to January 1865 where he was engaged at the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia in September 1863. From January 1865 to November 1866 Thomas was Quartermaster at Cincinnati and Chief Quartermaster of the Department of Tennessee from November 1866 to March 1867.

In March 1865 Colonel Thomas Swords received brevet promotions to brigadier general U.S. A. and major general U.S.A. for faithful and efficient service during the Civil War.

Thomas' last assignment was as Chief Quartermaster of the Department of the Cumberland from March 1867 to February 1869 when he was retired from service due to age. Thomas returned to New York City and was listed as a merchant. Charlotte, Thomas and their son Henry C. Swords at first lived with Charlotte's relatives who were prosperous shipping merchants. Thomas died in New York City in 1886 at age seventy-nine. Charlotte survived until 1888.



Envelope and letter mailed at Cottonwood by Private Isaac N. Sleeper of Fort Reading on March 26, 1855.

Fort Reading March 20<sup>th</sup> 1855

Dear parents it is with pleasure that i  
take my pen in hand to let you know  
that my health is good and hope that these  
few lines will find you in the same good blessing  
I have sent home a check of to hundred and  
twenty five dollars which you can draw at  
concord or any other place that you choose  
which i wish you to do as soon as you  
can, I have written to Susan to come  
out here for to live with me and she  
has consented to do i want you to rather  
to get peter or silvester to se him on  
to new york and aboard of the Steamer of  
the mail line by the first of may for  
it starts out on the fifth which is a saturday  
and let him have the trunk if she wants it  
to the best you can for him this money  
is to pay his passage out here and let  
him have the rest to come on with and i  
will settle with you for your trouble & i must  
bring this to a close by wishing you all  
the blessing of the Lord to be and abide  
with you all forever

I. N. Sleeper to  
Peter, Sleeper & Sally Sleeper

*Fort Reading March 26<sup>th</sup> 1855*

*Dear parents it is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand and let you know that my health is good and hope that these few lines will find you in the same good blessing. I have sent home a check of two hundred and twenty-five dollars which you can draw at Concord or at any other place that you choose which I wish you to do as soon as you can. I have written to Susan to come out here for to live with me and she has consented to. So I want you to either to get Peter or Sylvester to see her on to New York and aboard of the steamer of the mail line by the first of May for it starts out on the fifth which is a Saturday and let her have the trunk if she wants it. Do the best you can for her. This money is to pay her passage out here and let her have the rest to come on with and I will settle with you for your trouble. I must bring this to a close by wishing you all the blessing of the Lord to be and abide with you all forever.*

*I. N. Sleeper to*

*Peter Sleeper & Sally Sleeper*

Isaac N. Sleeper was born about 1823 in New Hampshire where he was trained as a stone layer or mason. Isaac's father was Peter Sleeper born in 1784 in New Hampshire who died in 1870 in New Hampshire. Isaac's mother was Sally Atwood 1785-1873 and the couple had eight children: Caleb, Ruth Atwood 1809-1885, Peter 1811-1883, James M. 1815-1838, Joanne C. 1818-1832, Isaac N. about 1823, Sarah B. 1825-1885, and Sylvester Bradley 1828-1918.

In 1846 Isaac was living in Lovell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts and working as a stonemason. In the same year he married Susan D. Woodbury, the daughter of Jesse and Sally Woodbury of Lovell.

On 22 November 1851, Isaac was enlisted in Company D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery Regiment at Boston by Major Francis O. Wyse of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery. For the next five years Wyse and Isaac's lives would run parallel to each other. Wyse had served in the Mexican War where he was promoted to Captain and Brevet Major for gallantry. Major Wyse was stationed at Fort Independence protecting Boston, which was probably Isaac's first duty station. In December 1853, the majority of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery Regiment was loaded on the Steamer San Francisco bound for California.

The steamer belonging to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company encountered a hurricane and after the pumps stopped became distressed. One of the ships to respond was the Bark Kirby herself in distress. The Kirby managed to take on 108 passengers including Private Sleeper, Mrs. Wyse and her child before being separated in the continuing storm. In January 1854, the Kirby was towed into New York. One hundred and fifty soldiers were lost on the San Francisco and other ships from drowning and disease. In April 1854 Private Sleeper re-embarked for California. Shortly after arriving at Benicia Barracks the company was sent north due to troubles on the Pitt and McCloud River. In June 1854, the company was assigned to Fort Reading where from May 1855 to March 1856 Major Wyse was the commanding officer. In March 1856 Major Wyse was transferred to Fort Cascade that was built on the Washington side of the Columbia River and it appears so was Private Sleeper. The enlistment record cited that Private Sleeper was discharged in November 1856 due to the expiration of his enlistment.

Nothing was found that confirmed if Susan Sleeper ever made it to California or what happened to Private Sleeper after November of 1856.

Page 92: List of Officers that served at Fort Reading should include:

Deyerle, Charles P., Assistant Surgeon, USA  
Edgar, William Francis. Surgeon Major, USA  
Evans, George Frederick, Brevet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. (assigned but was not at Ft. Reading)  
Greene, Oliver D., Brevet Brigadier General, USA  
Moore, Isaiah N., Captain, USA

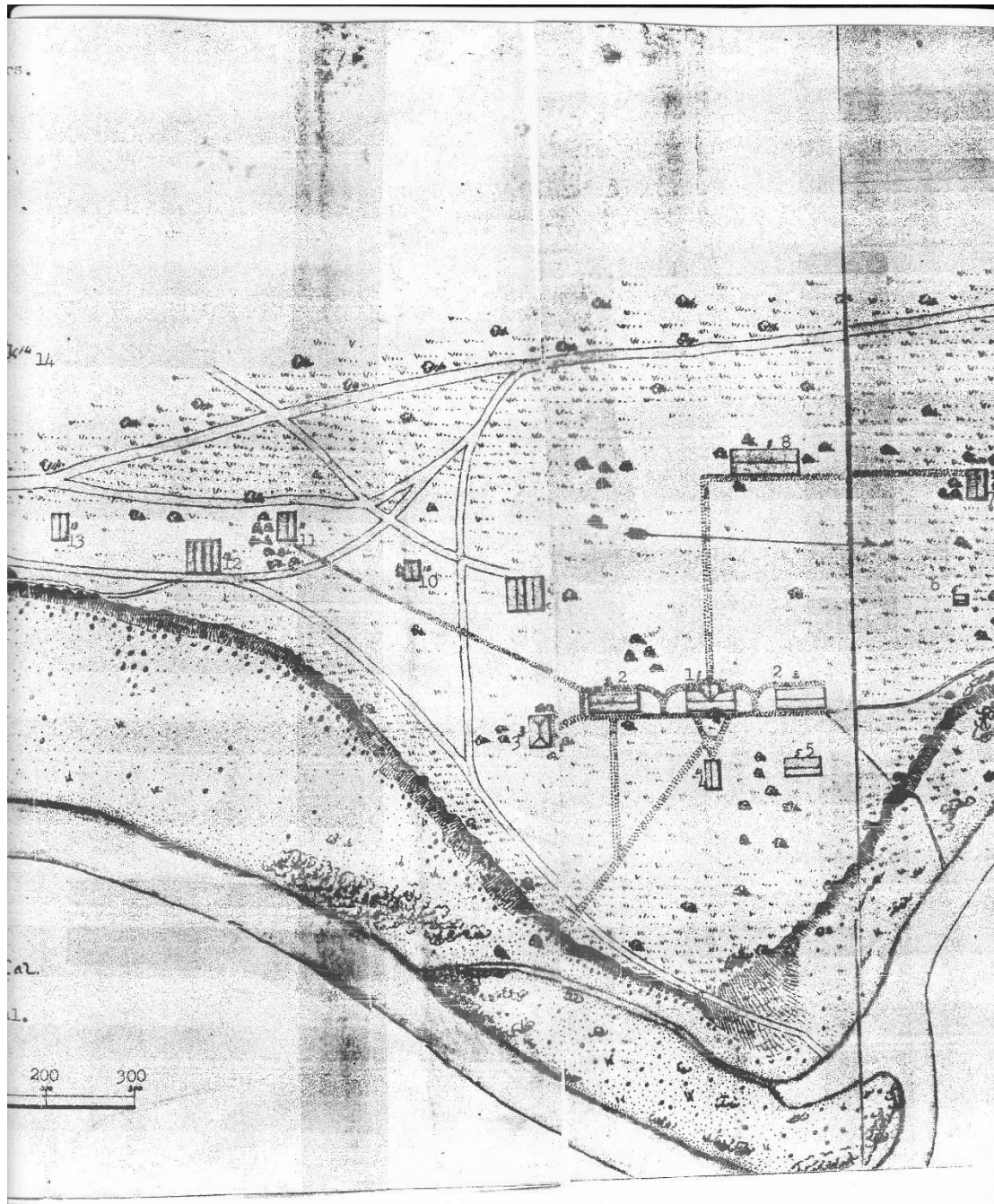
Page 93: List of supplemental Officers with duties at Fort Reading should include:

Guptill, William N., Contract Surgeon  
Smith, Alanson, Contract Surgeon  
Swords, Thomas, Brevet Major General, USA

Additional diagrams and map of Fort Reading done by Captain Morris S. Miller  
(continued from page 5).

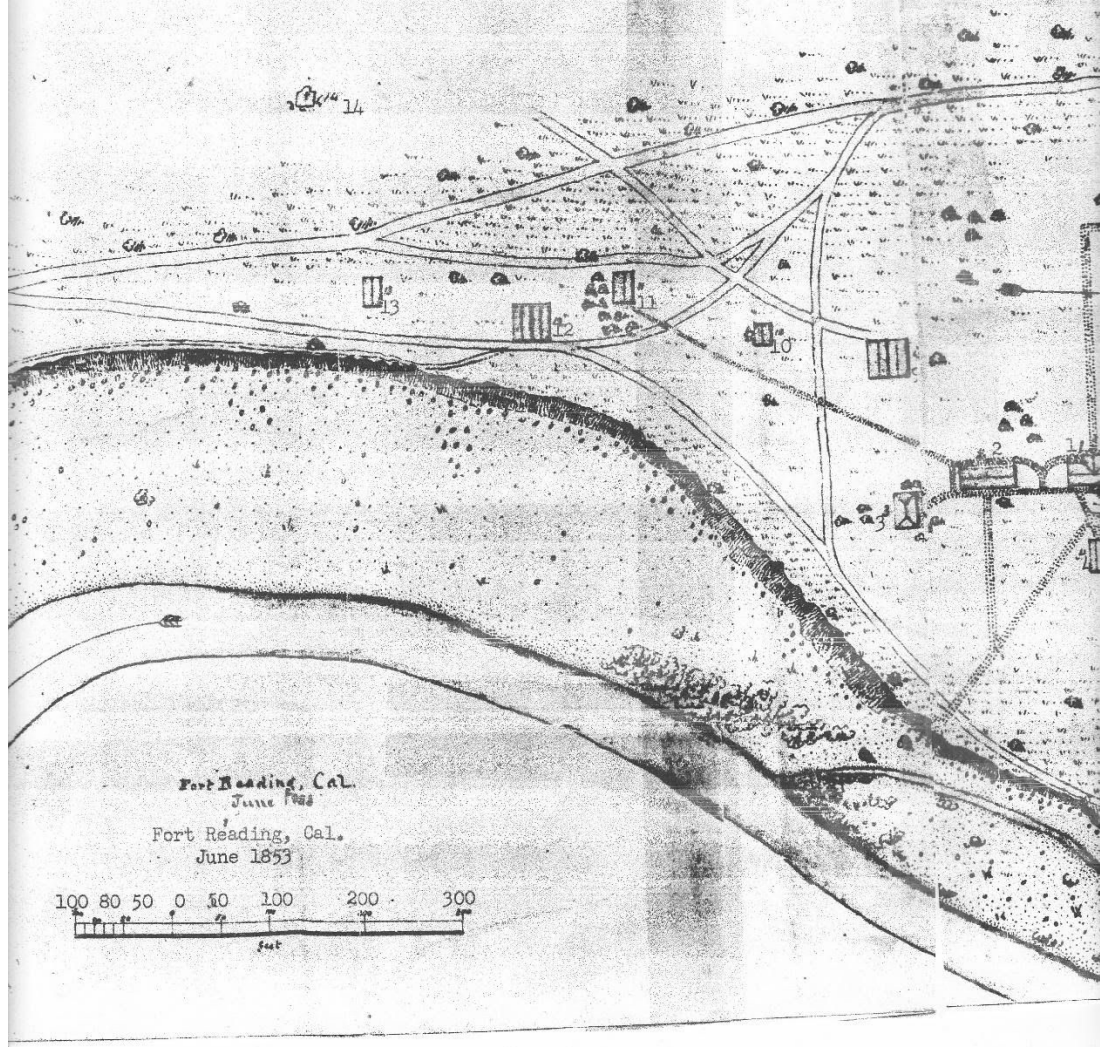
Note: the map illustrated below was produced by Captain Morris S. Miller in June 1853 along with a rough map of the District of Northern California. The North-South arrow on the map is shown between the headquarters building (#1) and the soldier's quarters (#8). The main post was located to the north with workshops, corrals, etc. stretched along the bluff to the south. To include the complete map it had to be done in three sections of which the center section has large areas of overlap.

North end of Fort Reading.



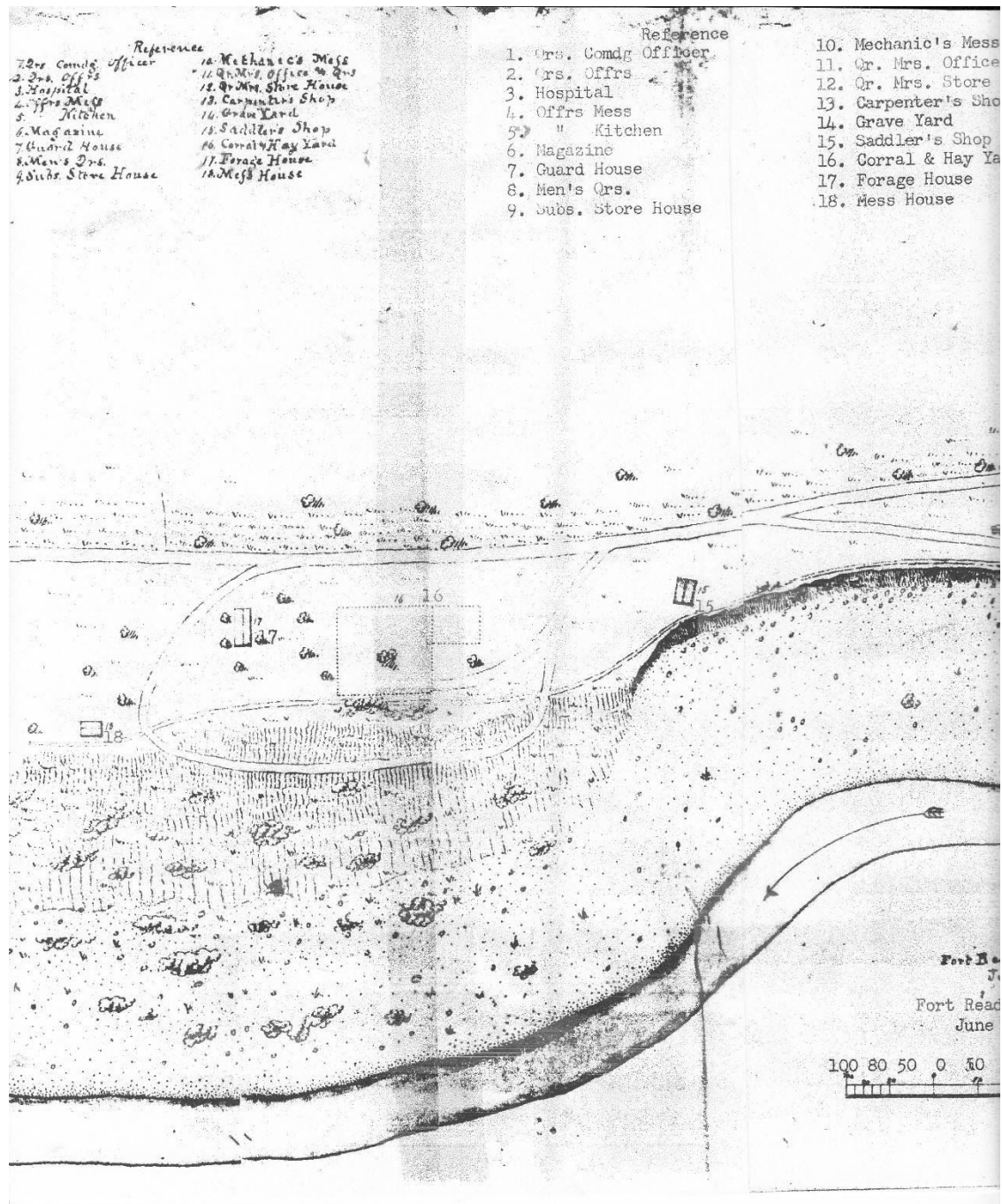
# Center portion of Fort Reading

10. Mechanic's Mess
11. Qr. Mrs. Office and Qrs.
12. Qr. Mrs. Store House
13. Carpenter's Shop
14. Grave Yard
15. Saddler's Shop
16. Corral & Hay Yard
17. Forage House
18. Mess House





## South end of Fort Reading



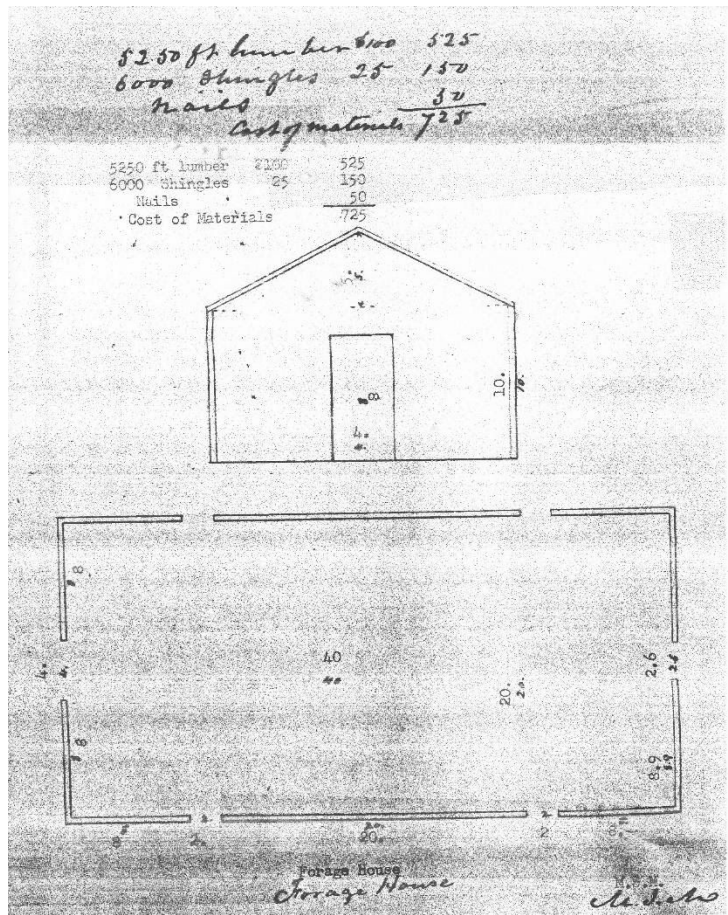
Note: the following plans for buildings at Fort Reading were procured by the California State Park at Shasta and were modified from the original drawings done by Morris S. Miller by typing in dimensions and text. In all Capt. Morris marked eighteen locations on his map of June 1853, while Col. Mansfield listed twenty-two locations.



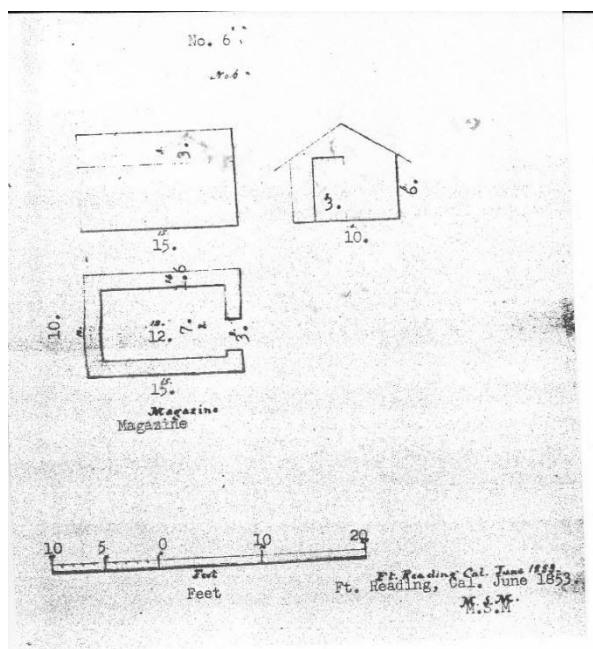
Combined index that adds Captain Morris' numbers of July 1853 to those listed by Col. Mansfield in 1854:

- A. Officer's quarters (#1 Headquarters and staff quarters; #2 two officer's quarters)
- B. Hospital (#3)
- C. Soldier's quarters (#8, note that by 1854 a second soldier's quarters was constructed)
- D. Guard House (#7)
- E. Magazine (#6)
- F. Subsistence warehouse (#9)
- G. Mechanic's mess (#10)
- H. Quartermaster's office and quarters (#11)
- J. Quartermaster warehouse (#12)
- K. Carpenter's shop (#13)
- L. Saddler's shop (#15)
- M. Hay yard (#16)
- N. Corral (#16)
- O. Forage house (#17)
- P. Teamster's mess (#18)
- Q. Officer's mess (#4/Q) (Note: on the 1853 map the kitchen and mess - #4 & 5- are listed as two distinct buildings while on the 1854 the two buildings are shown but only one labeled – Q. In the diagram of the building itself the kitchen and the mess area are combined.)
- R. Stable
- S. Wheelwright's shop
- T. Blacksmith shop
- W. Soldier's kitchen
- X. Bakery
- Y. Teamster's kitchen
- 14. The graveyard (#14) is not labeled on the 1854 map

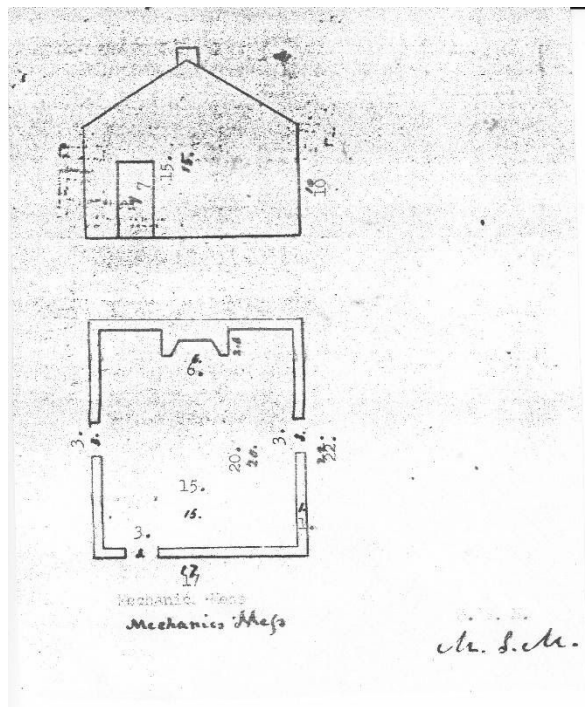
Illustrations of the headquarters building (A/#1), guard house (#7/D), hospital (#3/B), teamster's mess (#18/P), quartermaster's office and quarters (#11/H), carpenter's shop (#13/K), blacksmith's shop (T), and saddler's shop (#15/L) are featured in the book. The following are illustrations that were not included in the book:



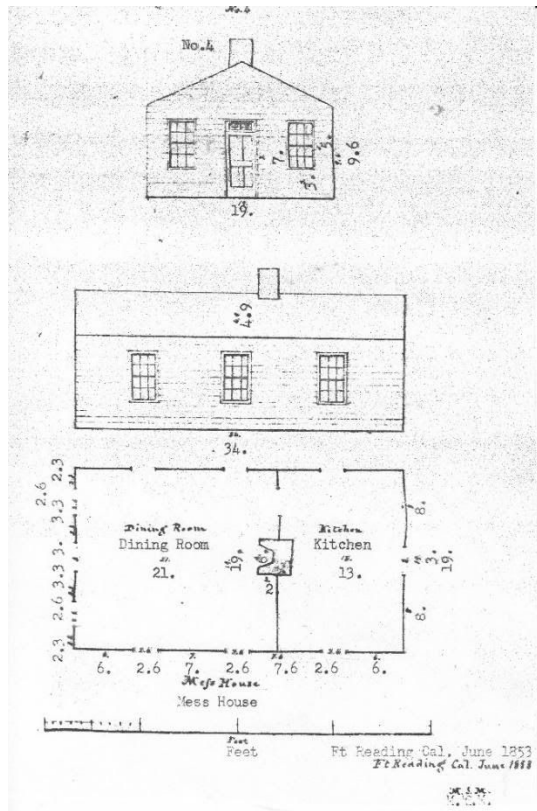
Forage house (No. 17/O).



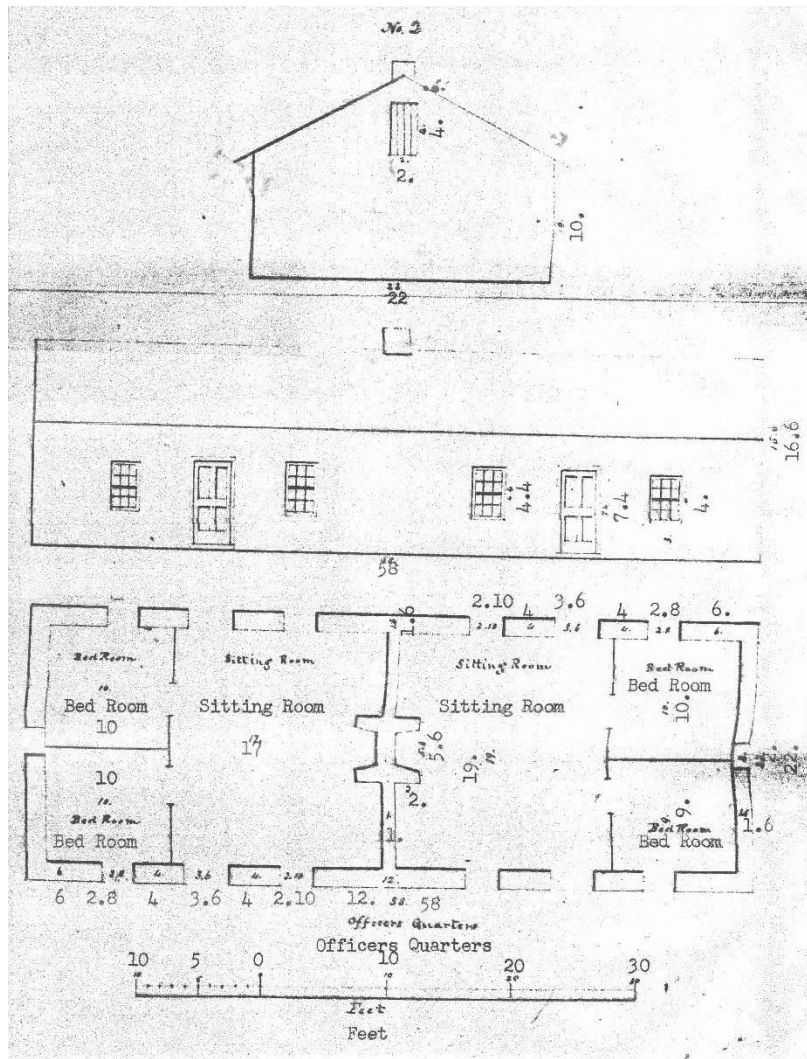
Magazine (No. 6/E)



Mechanics' mess (No. 10/G).



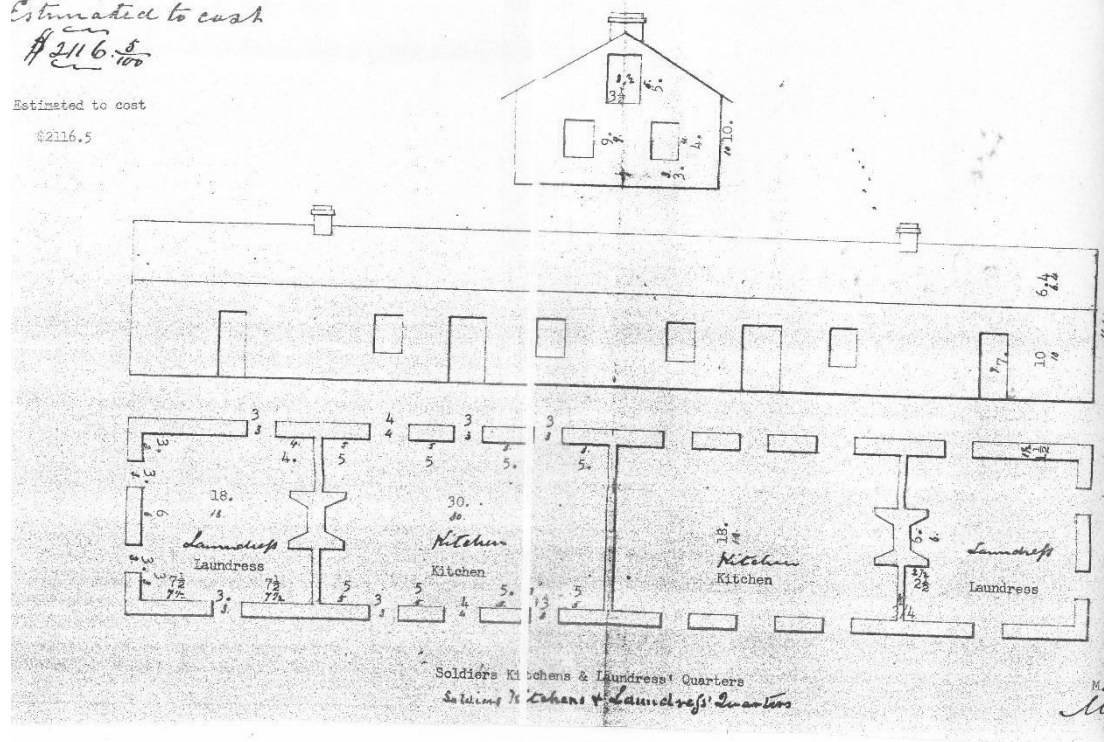
Officer's mess and kitchen (No. 4/Q)



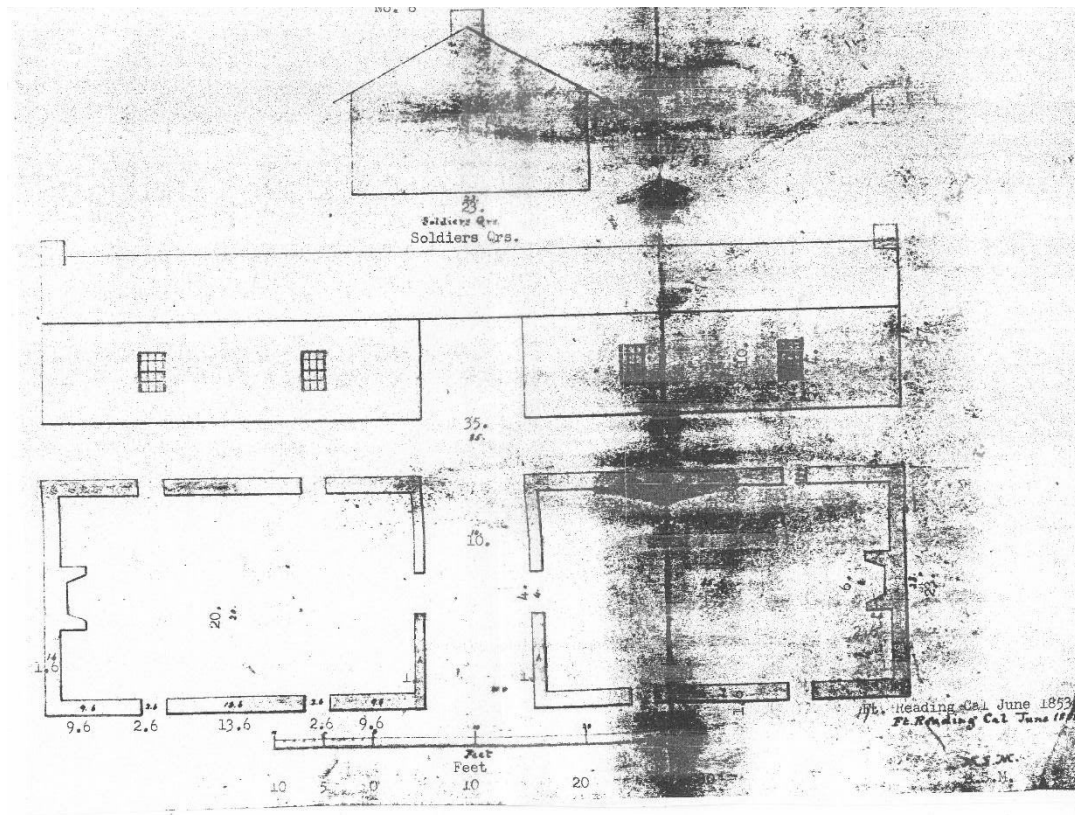
Officer's quarters (No. 2/A)

Estimated to cost  
\$2116.50

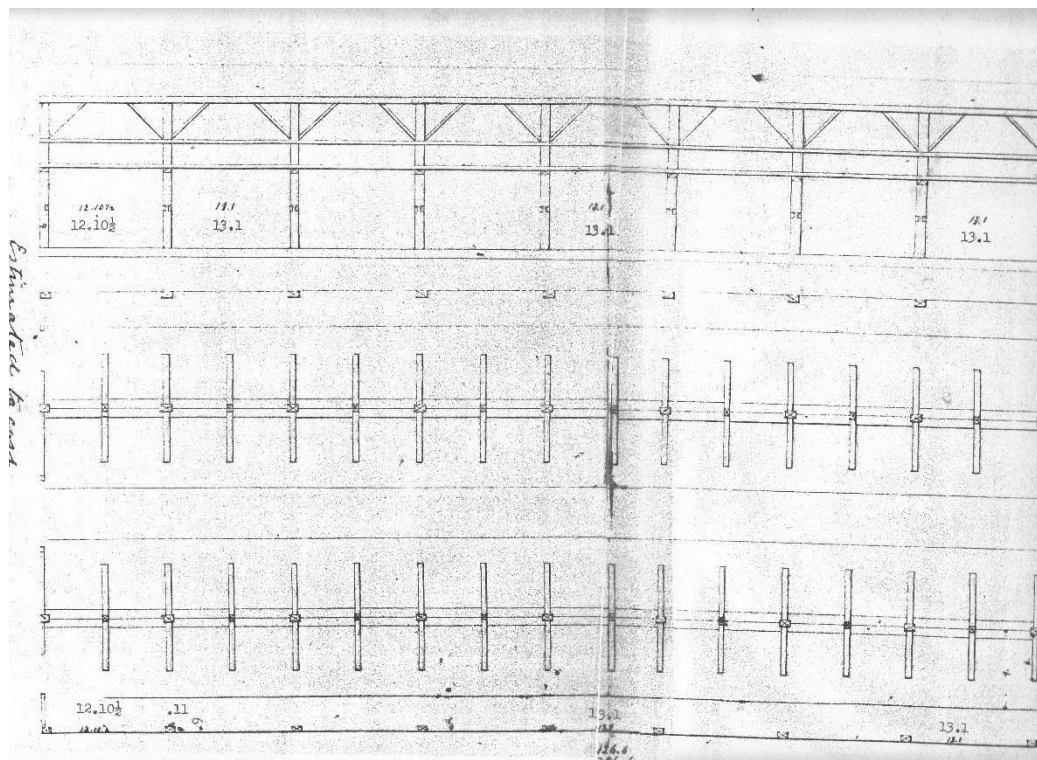
Estimated to cost  
\$2116.5



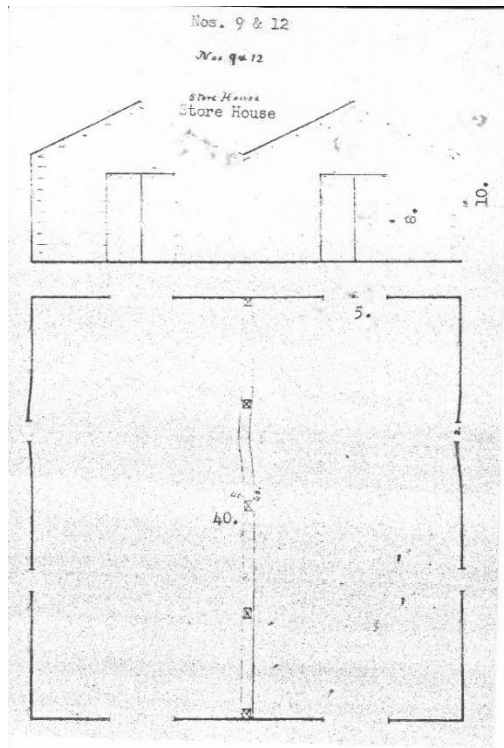
Soldier's kitchen and laundress' quarters (W).



Soldier's quarters (No. 8/C).



Stable and hay loft (R).

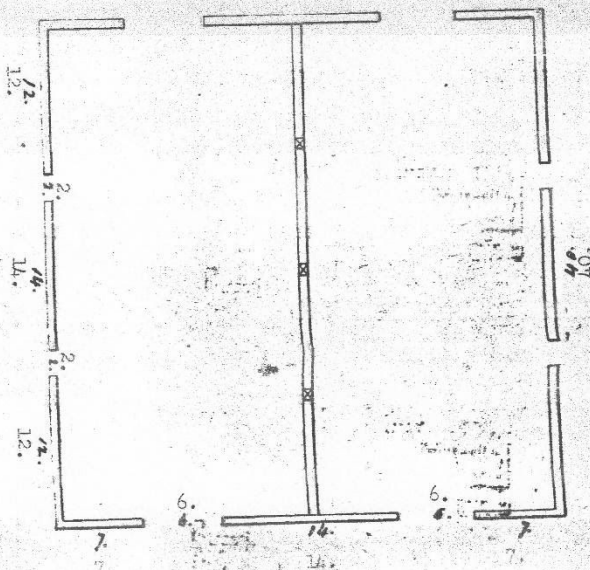
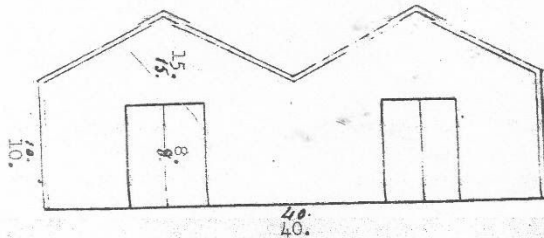


Store house (No 12/J)



19000 ft lumber \$100- \$1900  
 25000 Shingles #25 625  
 Locks & Nails 125  
 Cost of material 2650

19000 ft lumber  
 25000 Shingles  
 Locks & Nails  
 Cost of material



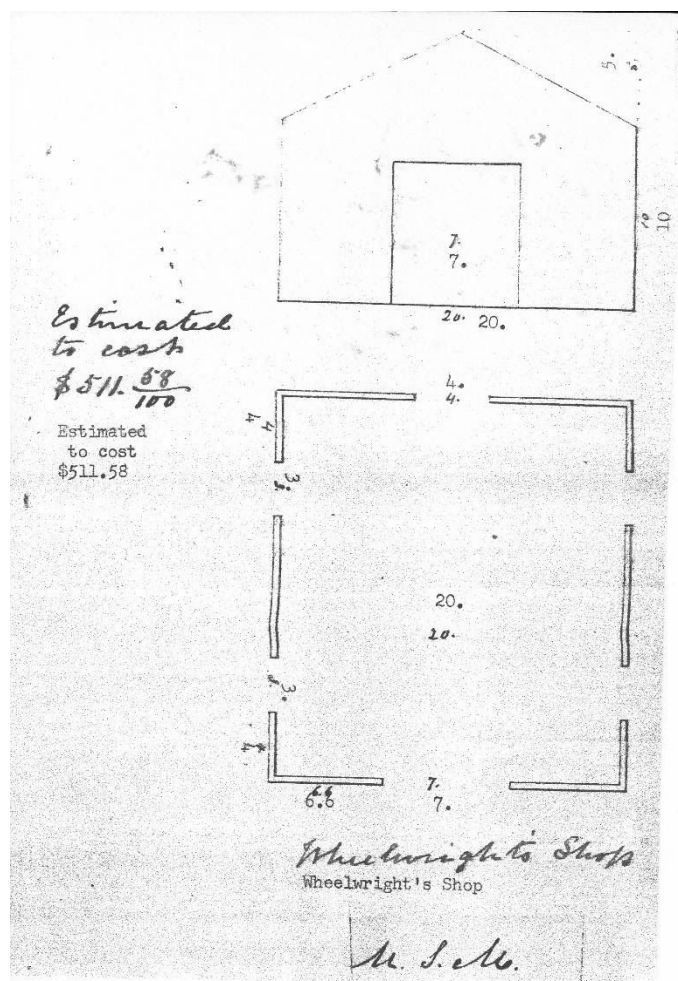
Subs. Store House  
 Subs. Store House

M. S. M.  
 M. S. M.

Note: The Dr. Mrs Store house  
 is precisely of this description  
 also -

Note: The Dr. Mrs Storehouse  
 is precisely of this description  
 also -

Subsistence store house (No. 9/F).



Wheelwright's shop (S).