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no. 304

# NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY



1864



1964

## CENTENNIAL OF STATEHOOD

VOL. VII, NO. 3-4

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The Society believes that it can best serve the State by arousing in the people a historical consciousness which it hopes will be carried to succeeding generations. Thus, through its Director, the Society sponsors an educational program which carries the history of Nevada to the schools and organizations throughout the State.

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The Society's membership is open to the public; application for membership should be made to the Secretary of the Society, State Building, Reno, Nevada.

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY

Centennial of Statehood  
1864-1964

VOLUME VII  
NUMBER 3-4

CONTENTS

Early Nevada Forts

by

Colonel George Ruhlen  
United States Army, Retired

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To Elliott Carr

George Ruhlen  
Col. U.S. Army, Retd.

## Early Nevada Forts

by

Colonel George Ruhlen  
United States Army, Retired

## BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE WRIGHT

Commanding General of the Department of the Pacific from 20 October 1861, to 1 July 1864, and of the District of California from 1 July 1864, to 27 July 1865. During this period the military forces in Nevada were under his control.

General Wright and his wife were drowned 30 July 1865, in the wreck of the steamer *Brother Jonathan* off Crescent City, California.

The regimental orders announcing his death, after reciting his military record, continued as follows: "Placed in command of the immense Department of the Pacific shortly after the outbreak of the recent rebellion, he, by his wisdom, so managed the great interests under his control that the burden of the war was scarcely felt within its borders. Deaf alike to the goadings of rebellious spirits and the frenzied appeals of timid loyalists he pursued his course with firmness and moderation to the glorious result. Without bloodshed he accomplished the work of the statesman and soldier, protected the honor of his country's flag and preserved the peace."<sup>1</sup>



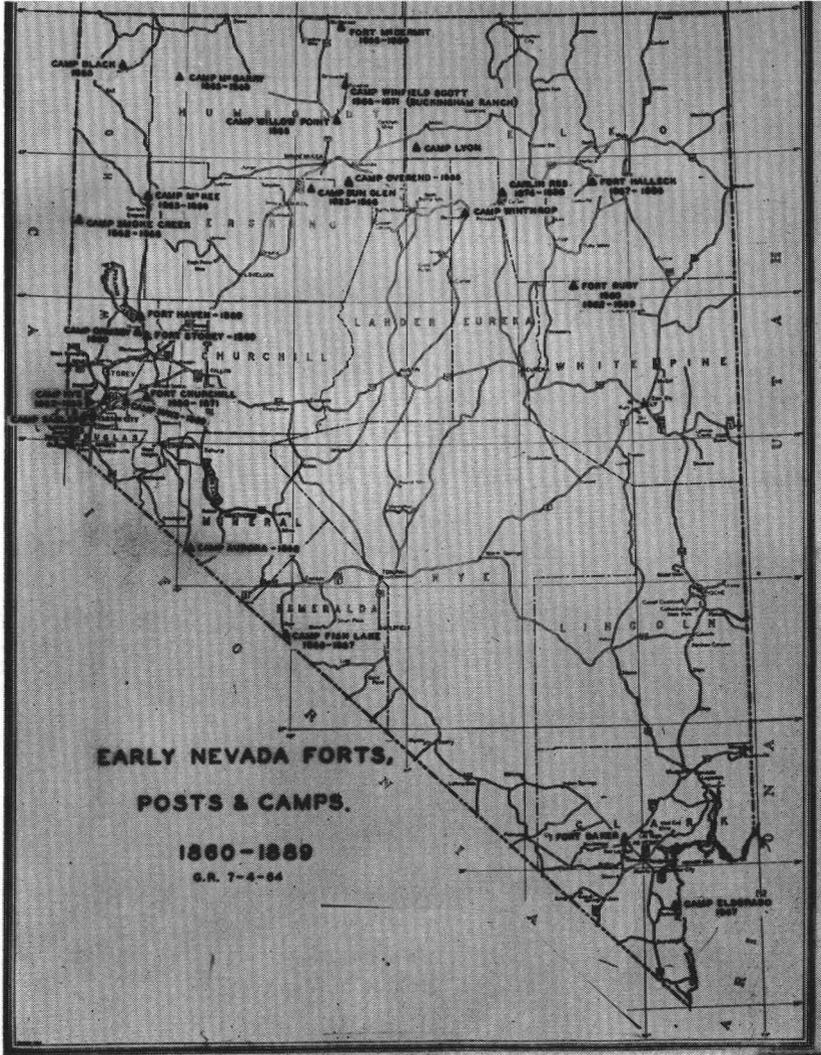
**Brig. Gen. George Wright.**

—Ruhlen Collection

<sup>1</sup>T. F. Rodenbough. *The Army of the United States*, p. 528.

## EARLY NEVADA FORTS

Camp or Fort	County	Period	Page
Camp near Aurora.....	Mineral.....	1862.....	9
Fort Baker.....	Clark.....		9
Camp Black.....	Washoe-Humboldt.....	1865.....	10
Carlin Reservation.....	Elko.....	1874-1888.....	11
Carson City.....	Ormsby.....	1860.....	13
Fort Churchill.....	Lyon.....	1860-1871.....	13
Camp Dun Glen.....	Pershing.....	1863-1866.....	23
Camp Eldorado.....	Clark.....	1867.....	25
Camp Elko.....	Elko.....	1871.....	25
Camp Fish Lake.....	Esmeralda.....	1866-1867.....	26
Fort Halleck.....	Elko.....	1867-1886.....	29
Fort Haven.....	Washoe.....	1860.....	35
Camp Hays.....	Lyon.....	1860.....	35
Fort Homestead.....	Storey.....	1865-1874.....	36
Camp Lyon.....	Elko.....		36
Fort McDermit.....	Humboldt.....	1865-1889.....	36
Camp McGarry.....	Humboldt.....	1865-1868.....	44
Camp McKee.....	Washoe.....	1865-1866.....	45
Camp Nye.....	Washoe.....	1862-1865.....	46
Camp Ormsby.....	Washoe.....	1860.....	47
Camp Overend.....	Humboldt.....	1865.....	47
Camp Pollock.....	Washoe.....	1864.....	47
Quinn River Camp.....	Humboldt.....	1865.....	47
Fort Riley.....	Storey.....	1860.....	48
Fort Ruby.....	White Pine.....	1862-1869.....	48
Camp Sadler.....	Ormsby.....		51
Fort Sage.....	Washoe.....	1870.....	51
Camp Winfield Scott.....	Humboldt.....	1866-1871.....	53
Silver City.....	Lyon.....	1860.....	55
Camp Smoke Creek.....	Washoe.....	1862-1866.....	55
Fort Storey.....	Washoe.....	1860.....	57
Post at Virginia City.....	Storey.....	1864-1865.....	57
Camp Willow Point.....	Humboldt.....	1865.....	58
Camp Winthrop.....	Eureka.....	1869.....	58



## EARLY NEVADA FORTS

The function of the Army in the Far West during the period extending from the discovery of gold until the late 1880's might have been known as the "battle of civilization." The Army had been pushed forward in advance of the building of the transcontinental railroads, occupying every dangerous mountain pass, guarding every surveying expedition, working party, and settlement that had been established westward from the Missouri River to the Pacific. Wherever danger threatened, whether a miner's camp, a settler's ranch or home, or where a party of railroad men were located, the Army was hurried from point to point to defend them from the savages until the entire wilderness was traversed, overrun, and occupied by civilized communities. Powerful tribes of Indians were subjected, disarmed, located, or colonized, and brought to a condition of industry and peaceful pursuits, so that, eventually, the transcontinental avenues of commerce and communications, and the communities that have grown up in the West enjoy peace and prosperity.<sup>1</sup>

The army installations located in Nevada during this period were established for the protection of the overland travel routes and early settlements from attacks and depredations by Indians. They were one of three types: The first were frontier posts intended to be of permanent nature. Although called "forts," they were really barracks or cantonments for the accommodation of from two to six companies of foot or mounted troops, or both. However, the garrisons rarely consisted of more than one or two companies, due to the dearth of available soldiers.

The usual plan of a frontier post was the grouping of the buildings around and fronting on a central rectangular plot of ground used as a parade. Some of the earlier frontier posts were inclosed by a wall or stockade, but none of those in Nevada was so constructed.

Forts of the permanent type were named by the Secretary of War upon the recommendation of the military commander in whose department they were located.

Establishments of the second type were temporary posts or camps, located in the immediate vicinity of active or threatened Indian hostilities, usually constructed of handy and available materials, such as logs, rough stones, or adobe bricks. The work was done by the labor of soldiers, and, as a rule, the structures were about one-half the size they should have been if intended as permanent quarters. The roofs were shingled, if the material was available, but more often were brush and dirt, or thatched. Occasionally, when lumber was obtainable, floors were boarded, otherwise the bare ground sufficed.

Maj. Gen. E. O. C. Ord, commanding the Department of California, in his annual report for 1868, stated: "Timber is so scarce in many parts

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<sup>1</sup>Report of the Secretary of War, 1889, pp. 171-2.

of Nevada and Arizona that at some posts it has been at times impossible to procure a sufficient number of boards to make coffins for the dead.

"In Nevada, the posts have been necessarily of a temporary nature, and in consequence the troops are not as comfortable as they should be."<sup>2</sup>

The third type were camps or bivouacs, temporary in occupancy for periods of a few days to several months. As a means of identification the last were given names or numbers by the officers responsible for their establishment, or by higher commanders.

General of the Army Wm. T. Sherman, in his annual report to the Secretary of War for the year 1882, expressed in very forcible language the inadequacy of the shelter that had been provided for the Army on the western frontier; stating in part: ". . . I am sure, from personal observation, that the Regular Army has done its full share in accomplishing this result—settlement of the West and building of the railroads—and I claim for them a share in its fruit. The troops during this transition period, have lived in holes in the ground, in houses made of green cottonwood logs infested with vermin, in temporary shanties, generally without murmur; but now this battle with poverty is over, or nearly so, and I appeal to Congress for generous treatment, for decent quarters for officers and men; to repeal the law which forbids anything but temporary shelters for our frontier posts; and to confer on the President, the Secretary of War, or a board of general officers, the power to designate the places of *strategic* importance at which to erect suitable *permanent* buildings for quartering properly the troops of the United States. In this connection I beg to submit a letter which I wrote you on the 16th of October last, and ask that it be construed as my judgment of the probable future, leaving for you and others, to determine the actual points which should, in the future, be occupied by garrisons to subserve the best interests of the country."<sup>3</sup>

Forts and camps established in Nevada from about 1860 to 1890, whose designations and locations could be identified, are listed herewith.

Titles of military officers and designations of army units are, at times, lengthy when completely spelled out. Abbreviations have been used in this compilation for the purpose of brevity and simplicity with the hope they will add to easier reading of the text. Military usage for dates has been adapted.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 1868, p. 50.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., 1882, pp. 5-6.

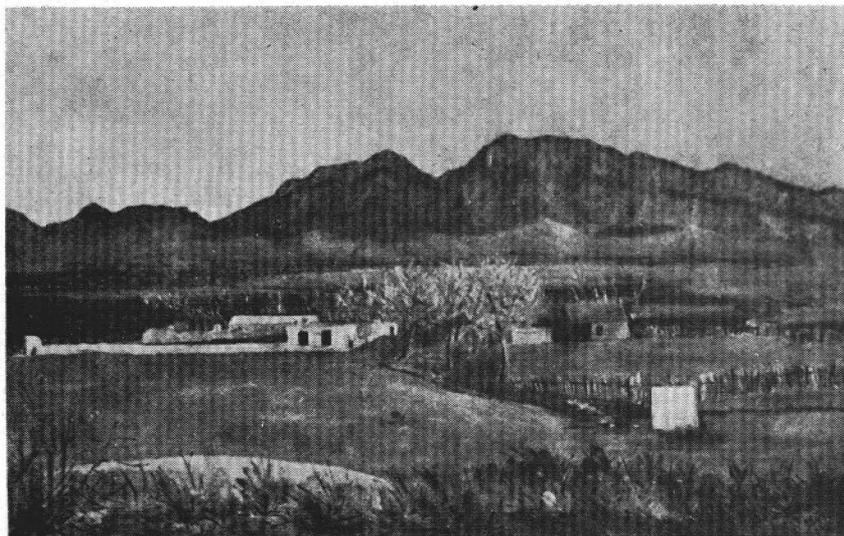
## CAMP (near) AURORA

A temporary camp located 1 mile from Aurora, (Esmeralda) Mineral County. Capt. Edward A. Rowe's Co A 2d Cav CV was sent from Fort Churchill to Aurora to settle disturbances arising between settlers and Indians in the Mono Lake and Adobe Meadows regions. The troops arrived 14 May 1862, shortly afterward moving to Adobe Meadows, where they remained until August 1862, when camp was broken up and they were ordered back to Fort Churchill.

## CAMP AURORA BIBLIOGRAPHY

War of the Rebellion: *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Series I, Vol. L, 2 Parts. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1897), Vol. L, Part 1, pp. 968, 972, 1102, 1103, 1118. (Hereafter cited as *Official Records*.)

*Ibid.* Part 2, p. 67.



Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1876.

—Historical Collection, Title Insurance and Trust Company, San Diego, California

## FORT BAKER

The old Mormon fort at Las Vegas, (Lincoln) Clark County, was given the name Fort Baker in orders issued by Col. James H. Carleton, 1st Inf CV, 23 Dec 1861. This order of Carleton's indicated that a garrison of California Volunteers, composed of three companies of cavalry and one of infantry, would garrison the Mormon fort for the purpose of guarding the road from Salt Lake City, Utah, to San Bernardino, California.

Exhaustive research, including War Department and National

Archives records, has failed to disclose any data that indicate Fort Baker ever was garrisoned by United States Army troops. It is believed that Carleton published the information for the purpose of concealing preparations being made for the march of "The Column From California" from Fort Yuma, California, across Arizona to New Mexico and Texas in 1862.

The fort was erected by Mormon settlers in 1855. It was 190 feet square, surrounded by an adobe wall 10 feet high, 2 feet thick at the bottom and 1 foot at the top. Two-story houses were erected on one side. It was abandoned when the Mormon settlers were recalled to Salt Lake City in 1857 and 1858. The place remained vacant until after the Civil War.

The location is marked by a monument and tablet. One building has been restored and serves as a museum. One-hundred-year-old fig trees, planted by the original settlers, still bear fruit.

The post was named for Col. Edward Dickinson Baker, 71st Pa Inf. Colonel Baker was born in London, England, 24 Feb 1811. He was a Whig member of Congress 1845-46; Col 4th Ill Inf in the Mexican War and brigade commander, 4 July 1846 to May 1847. He was a member of Congress from Illinois, 1849-51 and Republican Senator from Oregon, 1860-61. Promoted Brig Gen Vols 17 May 1861, which he declined. He was Col 71 Pa Inf 22 June 1861, and promoted Maj Gen Vols 21 Sept 1861, but had not accepted the appointment up to the time he was killed 21 Oct 1861 at the battle of Balls Bluff, Virginia.

#### FORT BAKER BIBLIOGRAPHY

Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia (New York, 1905), Vol. IX, p. 110.  
Jensen, Arthur, "History of Las Vegas Mission." *Nevada State Historical Society Papers*, Vol. V, 1925-26.

Heitman, Francis B. *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, 1789-1903*, 2 Vols. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903.) Vol. I, p. 183. Vol. VII, pp. 29, 173.

National Archives. Letter to author, August 27, 1957.

*Official Records*. Vol. L, Part I, pp. 356-358, 772, 773, 776, 782.

Orton, Richard H. *Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-67*. (Sacramento: State Printing Office, 1890), p. 885.

Ruhlen, George "Carleton's Empty Fort." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 68-75.

#### MAPS

War of the Rebellion: Atlas to accompany Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-65, *Plate XCVIII*.

#### CAMP BLACK

There were several camps of this name in Nevada during 1865, all of a temporary nature; one at Massacre Lake, and another in Paradise Valley. The latter was occupied in July and August 1865 by Co I 6th Inf CV, Capt. Albert Hahn in command.

The camp was named for Col. Henry Moore Black, 6th Inf CV. Colonel Black, a native of Pennsylvania, graduated from the USMA 1 July 1847, and was appointed Bvt 2d Lt 4th Inf; 2d Lt 7th Inf 20 Aug 1847; served in the War with Mexico 1847-48; in Florida hostilities against Seminole Indians 1849-50; Capt 9th Inf 10 Sept 1856; served in Wash Ter and Calif 1856 to 1862; Col 6th Inf CV 1 Feb 1863 to 27 Oct 1865; Maj 7th US Inf 25 July 1863; Lt Col 4th Inf 7 Oct 1868; Col 23d Inf 6 Feb 1882; Bvt Lt Col and Col 13 Mar 1865; for faithful and meritorious service during the war; retd 15 Jan 1891; died 5 Aug 1893.

#### CAMP BLACK BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Cullum, G. W. Vol. II, p. 198.  
 Heitman, F. B. *Historical Register*, Vol. I, p. 221. Vol. II, p. 80.  
 Orton, R. H. *Records of California Men*, pp. 720, 721, 724, 755.  
 Hamersly, T. H. S. Vol. I, p. 302.

#### CARLIN RESERVATION

This reservation was located on Maggie Creek, Elko County, about 1½ miles north of the town of Carlin on the Humboldt River. The reservation of 960 acres was reserved by executive order dated 9 Nov 1874, amended 7 April 1875. No military post was built there.

On 22 Sept 1868, Maj. Gen. H. W. Halleck, commanding the Division of the Pacific, in his annual report to the War Department, stated, "As soon as the railroad is constructed to Maggie Creek, on the Humboldt River, it is probable that a new stage and mail route will be opened from that point to Ruby, Silver, and Boise Cities, in Idaho. If so, a military post will be required on the route to protect against Shoshone and Goose Mountain Indians."

The route was opened and it may have been contemplated at that time that a fort or depot at Carlin could serve the purpose. Afterward, on several occasions, commanders of the Division of the Pacific stated that as Camp (Fort) Halleck was 12 miles from the railroad, a post nearer the rails would be more suitable. It probably was the intention to move Fort Halleck to this site, but having expended considerable money in erecting the post, the military authorities would be reluctant to advance such a proposal to Congress which at that time viewed military expenditures with disfavor.

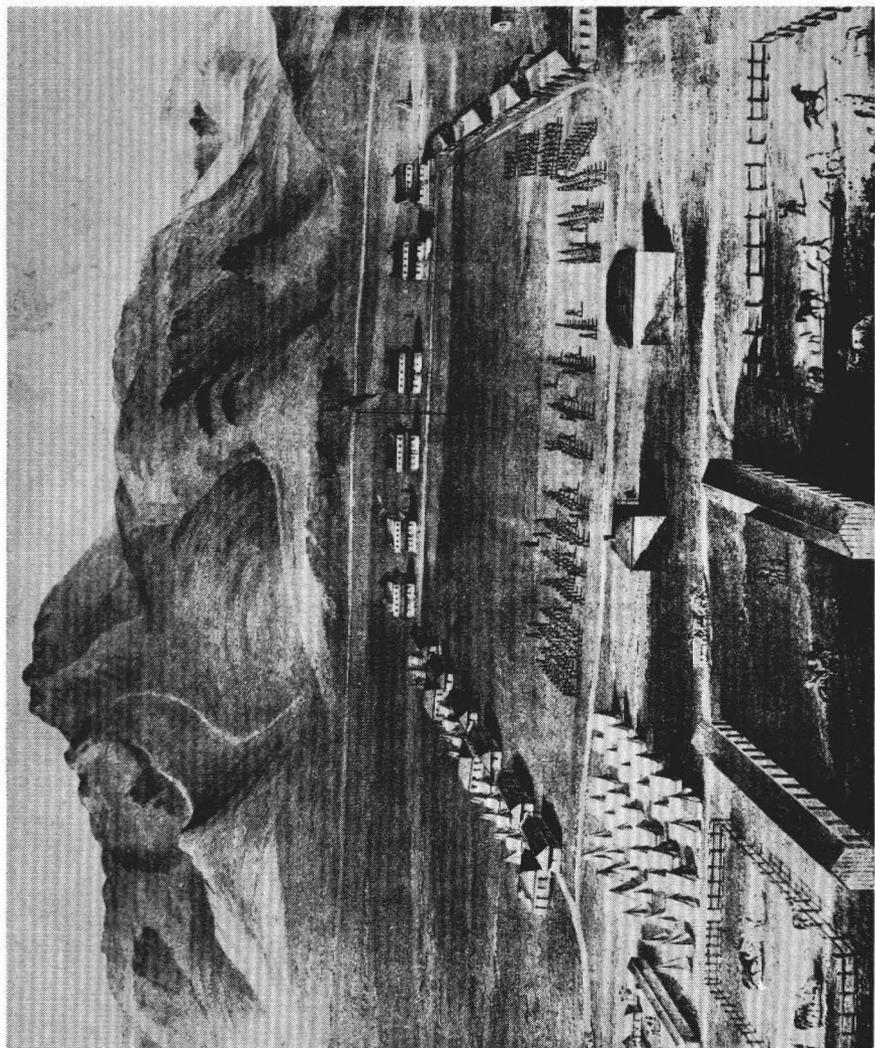
The reservation was relinquished by the War Department per Circular 1 WD, 20 March 1888, and turned over to the Secretary of the Interior.

#### CARLIN RESERVATION BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Heitman, F. B. *Historical Register*, Vol. II, p. 486.  
 Reports of the Secretary of War. 1868, p. 45; 1872, p. 66; 1901, p. 404.

#### MAPS

- Map of the State of Nevada, 1886. John W. Parker.



Fort Churchill, Lyon County, Nevada 1860-71.

## CARSON CITY

Following the outbreak of the Pyramid Lake Indian uprising in May 1860, the Penrod Hotel was used as a fortification after being barricaded and pickets established. At Genoa the stone house of Warren Wasson was taken for defense, while Wasson rode through the enemy country 110 miles, to Honey Lake, California, to carry a telegraphic order from General Clarke to a company of cavalry supposed to be at Honey Lake, to march at once to Carson City.

## CARSON CITY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Angel, M. *History of Nevada*, p. 158.

Bancroft, H. H. *History of Nevada, Colorado and Wyoming*, p. 212.

## FORT CHURCHILL

Fort Churchill was situated in Lyon County, on the north bank of Carson River, 1 mile west of Buckland's Bridge, opposite Samuel S. Buckland's trading post, on the old Overland stage road running into Virginia City, 25 miles east of that community.

At the outbreak of the Pyramid Lake Indian War in May 1860, citizens of Nevada appealed to Bvt. Brig. Gen. N. S. Clarke, USA, CG Dept Calif, whose headquarters was at San Francisco, California, for arms and troops, which were dispatched to Nevada.

General Clarke, in a letter dated 11 May 1860, to AAG Lorenzo Thomas, army headquarters, Washington, D.C., stated that it was feared a war was starting with Piute Indians; the inhabitants of Nevada were calling for arms and troops. He called attention to the fact that he had asked for troops a year before so as to establish a post in the Carson Valley, but the order issued for moving infantry companies from Oregon to his command had not been complied with.

In a following letter to Thomas on 14 May 1860, Clarke reported he was sending a small force to Nevada and "under the circumstances it will be necessary to erect a post on the Carson River, or in its vicinity, to do which I ask the approval of the Secretary of War." This request was favorably considered by Gen. Winfield Scott, Commander in Chief of the Army, and forwarded to the Secretary of War, John B. Floyd, who, on 11 June 1860, approved the request and authorized the erection of a post on the Carson River.

The troops dispatched to Nevada by General Clarke, at the request of the citizens, were designated "The Carson Valley Expedition," under command of Capt. Joseph Stewart, 3d US Art. The expedition consisted of Stewart's Co H 3d Art, with 2d Lt. Augustus G. Robinson, from Fort Alcatraz, California; a detachment of 11 men of Cos M and I 3d Art, under command of 1st Lt. Horatio G. Gibson, and 2d Lt. Edward R. Warner, respectively, from the Presidio of San Francisco, California,



**Captain Joseph Stewart.**

manning two howitzers; from Benicia Barracks, California, Co A 6th Inf, Capt. Frederick F. Flint, and Co H 6th Inf, 2d Lt. John McCleary; a detachment of 37 men of Cos A and F 1st Drags, under 1st Lt. Alfred B. Chapman and 2d Lt. Richard H. Brewer; Capt. Tredwell Moore, quartermaster, and Capt. Chas. C. Keeney, surgeon.

Following their fight with Piute Indians near Pyramid Lake on 2 June 1860, the troops encamped 6 June at Fort Haven, an earthwork thrown up on the Truckee River about a mile from the lake, where they remained for several weeks.

SO 67 Hq Dept Calif, 13 July 1860, directed that: "A post to be garrisoned by two companies of infantry and one of dragoons will be established on the Carson River. The site to be fixed by Captain Stewart, commanding in Western Utah, in the Big Bend of the Carson River. Construction to be of the simplest character with materials most easily procured. Work on these structures will be pushed with vigor by the labor of the whole command."

Captain Stewart with the artillery portion of the command vacated Fort Haven 15 July and marched 43 miles to the Big Bend of the Carson River, arriving on the site selected for the new post 20 July. The infantry components left Fort Haven 17 July and arrived at the post site 21 July; the remainder of the command arrived 23 July. From this place Captain Stewart sent the following letter to Maj. W. W. Mackall, AAG, Dept Calif:

"Post on the Carson River, U. T.  
July 23rd, 1860.

Major:

I would respectfully suggest that this post be known as Fort Churchill in honor of General Sylvester Churchill, Inspector General.

I have the honor to be  
Very respectfully,  
Your obt. Servt.

Major W. W. Mackall  
Asst. Adjt. General  
Hd. Qrs. Dept. California

J. STEWART  
Capt. 3rd Arty.  
Comdg."

This letter was approved by General Clarke and forwarded to the War Department 28 July 1860. There it was submitted to Secretary of War John B. Floyd by Maj. E. D. Townsend, AAG, 25 Aug 1860, and was approved by Floyd the same day. On 28 Aug 1860, GO 21 WD was issued which stated that the new post established on the Carson River, U.T., will be known as Fort Churchill.

Gen. Sylvester Churchill, a native of Vermont, was commissioned 1st Lt 3d Art 12 Mar 1812; Capt 15 Aug 1813; trans to the Corps of Artillery 12 May 1814; Maj Assistant Inspector General 29 Aug 1813 to 1 June 1821; Capt 1st Art 1 June 1821; Bvt Maj 15 Aug 1823 for 10 years faithful service in one grade; Maj 3d Art 6 Apr 1835; Col

1860  
Cannon Tower  
July 23, 1860

1860  
The week 1860 C.

Stewart Joseph  
Capt. 3rd Regt  
Cavalry

Recommend that the  
name be called  
"Fort Churchill" in  
approval & reply  
for a report

W. J. Park  
Br. Michigan

Res. 23rd Aug. 25, 1860  
Gen. S. W. (S. W.)  
Adj. Gen. (S. W.)  
July 23, 1860

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary  
of War, for his consideration  
of the proposed name for the  
Cannon Tower  
July 23, 1860  
Stewart Joseph

Atk. - Aug. 25, 1860

B. Boylston  
approved

on 25th  
25 Aug. 1860. B. Boylston

Stewart Joseph

S. O. No. 21.

Official endorsements for naming of Fort Churchill.

Last in the Cassin River U.S.

July 23rd, 1860.

Major:

I would, respectfully suggest that this post be  
known as Fort Churchill, in honor of General Gylbustor  
Churchill, Inspector General.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully,

Your obt. Servt.

Stewart

Capt. U.S. Army.

Comdg

Major W. W. Mackrall

Asst. Adjt. General

4th. Div. Dept. California

Inspector General 25 June 1841; Bvt Brig Gen 23 Feb 1847 for gallant and meritorious conduct at the Battle of Buena Vista, Mexico; ret'd 25 Sept 1861; died at Washington, D.C., 7 Dec 1862.

Fort Churchill military reservation was declared by Captain Stewart in Orders No. 6, Fort Churchill, U.T. 7 Aug 1860. No formal reserve was established. It lay on both sides of the Carson River in Townships 16 and 17 N., Range 24 E., rhomboidal in shape, with the acute angles at the southwest and northeast; area about 1,384 acres. The post was located in the middle of the northern part of the reservation, in the southeast quarter of Section 34.

Fort Churchill was the first, largest, and most important military establishment to be located in Nevada. It was one of the type of military stations intended to be a permanent post, having abode buildings erected on stone foundations, placed in the form of a square facing a central parade ground.

The barracks were built on the west side of the parade ground, facing east; the mess halls and kitchens behind them. Opposite, on the east side, were post headquarters, commissary and quartermaster's storehouses, hospital, and laundresses' quarters. Six two-story double sets of officers' quarters occupied the higher ground on the north side of the parade. The guardhouse, magazine, bakery, shops, stables, and corrals were on the south side nearer the river.

Having established the post on Carson River, on 11 August, Captain Stewart took leave of absence for 60 days, turning over command to the next ranking officer, Capt. Franklin F. Flint, 6th Inf. 26 August Co A 1st Drags arrived for station, bringing the strength of the post to 200 men.

The artillery units returned to their San Francisco stations 16 Oct 1860, leaving as the post garrison Co A 1st Drags and Cos A and H 6th Inf.

Subsequent to the departure of Captain Stewart a controversy arose between Capt. Tredwell Moore, Quartermaster at Fort Churchill and Maj. Thos. Swords, Department Quartermaster at San Francisco, with Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, Quartermaster General of the Army, regarding the excessive expenditures made for the construction of Fort Churchill. It was stated that the estimate of Captain Moore "exceeded the amount appropriated for the construction and repair of barracks, &c, commutation of quarters, &c., for the whole army." Despite explanations of the high cost of materials, transportation, and labor in Nevada at that time, higher authority was not satisfied, whereupon SO 85 Dept Pac, 17 May 1861, was issued: "By direction of the Secretary of War, a Board of Officers will convene at Fort Churchill, U.T. on the 1st proximo for the purpose of investigating into matters connected with the large expenditures at Fort Churchill, in the construction of quarters and other buildings.

"The Board will report minutely everything relating to the subject."

The board, composed of Lt. Col. George Andrews, 6th Inf, Maj. Geo. A. H. Blake, 1st Drags, and 2d Lt. Eugene M. Baker, 1st Drags, met at Fort Churchill 3 and 4 June 1861; submitted their report 6 June to Brig. Gen. Edwin V. Sumner, Dept Comdr, who forwarded it to the Quartermaster General of the Army on 12 June.

The board reported its opinion as follows:

"1st. That the number of rooms in each building included in the plan for any one officer is unnecessarily great and unauthorized by the Army Regulations.

"2nd. That the number of buildings for officers quarters are sufficient when completed for the command originally intended.

"3rd. That the buildings constructed for the men, hospital and store rooms, are rather less than what is necessary for the comfort of the men and preservation of the public property.

"4th. That at the time the post was located a great competition for mechanics, materials, &c was created by the settlement and building of the several cities of Carson, Silver and Virginia and the settlements in the vicinity.

"5th. That in consideration of the extraordinary circumstances at the time the post was ordered to be located (such as the lateness of the season and scarcity and distance from which materials had to be brought, the high price of mechanics and laborers) the amount of expenditures was necessarily large."

With this report and the approach of the Civil War involving more important matters, the excessive cost of Fort Churchill was laid aside.

In June 1861 (per SO 97, Dept Pac 1 June 1861), as a result of Secessionist threats in Virginia City and Carson City, the garrison was increased by the addition of Co G 6th Inf from Benicia Barracks. At the end of the month, quiet having been restored by the presence of troops, the company returned to its regular station. In the meantime, the dragoons patrolled the overland road as far eastward as Ruby Valley. The commanding officer of the post was Maj. G. A. H. Blake, 1st Drags.

In July 1861 (per SO 129 Dept Pac 17 July 1861) regimental headquarters of the 1st Dragoons was assigned to the post and additional quarters were built for the accommodation of more troops.

Cos A and H 2d Cav CV, Capts. Edwin A. Rowe and Daniel McLean, respectively, in command, arrived 21 Oct 1861; the regular units departed 2 November. Thereafter, throughout the period of the Civil War, California and Nevada Volunteers comprised the garrison of Fort Churchill.

In March 1862 (per SO 39 Dept Pac 10 Mar 1862) Maj. Charles McDermit, 3d Inf CV, assumed command of the fort and shortly afterward, in addition, command of the Military District of Nevada. He filled both offices in a capable and efficient manner until he was killed by Indians 7 Aug 1865, on Quinn River, near the place where Fort McDermit, named in his honor, later was erected.

**MAP**  
OF THE  
**MILITARY RESERVATION**  
at  
**FORT CHURCHILL NEV.**  
1868

Surveyed & drawn  
under direction of  
*See Appendix*  
Capt. of Engineers  
Area: 1884. 37/100 acres.

**LEGEND**

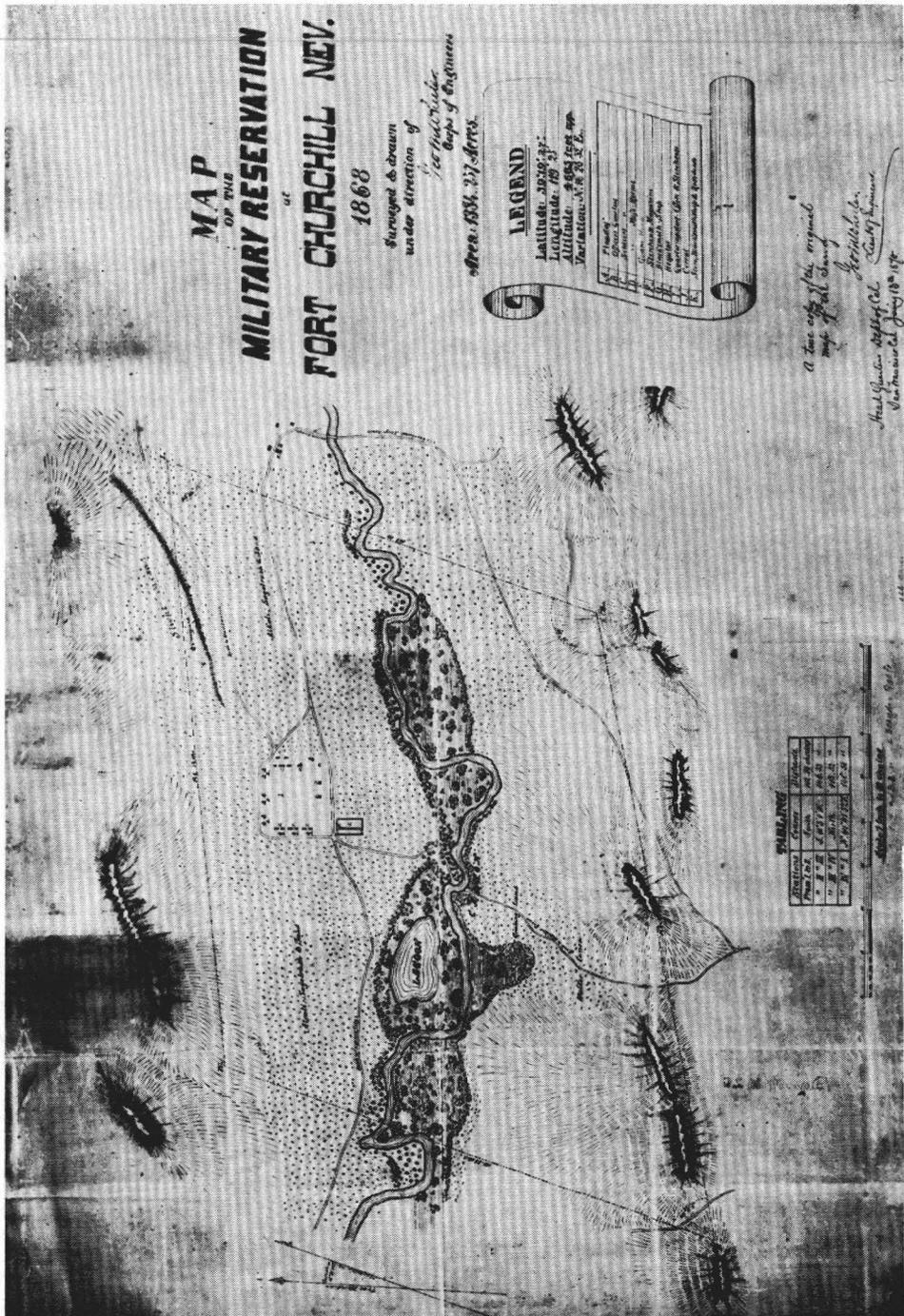
Latitude: 39° 54' 30" N.  
Longitude: 119° 58' 00" W.  
Altitude: 4683 feet up.  
Variation: N. 13° 30' E.

1	Fort
2	Fort
3	Fort
4	Fort
5	Fort
6	Fort
7	Fort
8	Fort
9	Fort
10	Fort
11	Fort
12	Fort
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*A true copy of the original  
map of all things  
for the  
Hon. Secy of War  
Washington D.C. July 18 1878*

**SCHEDULE**

Section	Area	Value
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On 1 Aug 1862, the "Utah Column" under command of Col. P. E. Connor, 3d Inf CV, enroute to Salt Lake City, reached Fort Churchill. They stopped there for 2 weeks overhauling and repairing their equipment, and Colonel Connor assumed command of the District of Utah, comprising Utah and Nevada. Fort Churchill was a component of the Utah Military District until the latter part of 1863 when it was transferred to the District of California.

Throughout the period of the Civil War Fort Churchill retained its importance as headquarters and the main supply depot for the Nevada Military District. It served as the base of operations for the dispatch of troops throughout the State and into the Owens Valley of California, and furnished patrols for protecting the overland route from the Sierra Nevada to Austin and Ruby Valley.

During the Civil War period various military organizations served at Fort Churchill. Among them were: 1862, Cos A, H, and L 2d Cav CV. 1863, Co L 2d Cav CV, Co A 3d Inf CV, Co B 1st Cav NV. 1864, Cos C, D, E, and F 1st Cav NV, Cos A, B, and C 1st Inf NV. 1865, Cos B and I 2d Cav CV, Cos D and E 6th Inf CV, Cos D and E 1st Cav NV, and Co A 1st Inf NV.

The volunteers were mustered out in 1865 and 1866. In January 1866, Co F 9th US Inf joined the garrison. 1 May 1866 the last volunteer unit, Co K 2d Cav CV, departed, being replaced by companies of the 1st US Cav who remained until July, when they in turn left. However, Maj. A. G. Brackett of that regiment was left to command the district.

GO 21 Mil Div Pac, 1866, directed that the garrison be reduced to one company, the post to continue as a depot with the company guarding the stores.

In July 1867, Co F 9th Inf was replaced by the newly organized Co M 8th Cav. In September Co M departed and Co H 9th Inf moved in.

In January 1868, Hq Dist Nev was reestablished at the post under command of Col. J. I. Gregg, 8th Cav, but in May headquarters of the district was transferred to Camp Halleck, Nevada, and abandonment of the post was directed by GO 6 Mil Div Pac, 19 May 1868. However, Co H 9th Inf remained.

The designation "Fort Churchill" was changed in April 1868 to "Churchill Barracks." However, the name change was short lived as the term Fort Churchill reappeared. During the same year 1st Lt. Geo. M. Wheeler, CE, surveyed and mapped the reservation.

In May 1869, the 9th Infantry, after 13 years service on the Pacific slope, was transferred to the Department of the Platte and was replaced by the 12th Infantry. Co H 9th Inf transferred its men to Co H 12th Inf.

In August 1869, Co A 1st Cav arrived and remained until 29 September when it moved to Camp Bidwell, California, in compliance with paragraph 5, GO 164 Dept Calif, 8 Sept 1869. Paragraph 13 of the same order directed the Chief Quartermaster to appoint a citizen to take

charge of the post until a noncommissioned officer could be found for that duty. The enlisted men were ordered to proceed to Reno, thence to Winnemucca, then to Camp McDermit, the remaining property to be shipped to Camp Halleck. The post was abandoned 29 Sept 1869.

Maj. Gen. E. O. C. Ord, CG Dept Calif, on 15 Jan 1870, placed an indorsement on a letter pertaining to Fort Churchill, in part as follows: ". . . no need for troops unless there are difficulties between Chinese and white laborers which might make the presence of troops of importance, then they could camp out." It is not clear whether this comment pertained to miners or railroad laborers.

Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, CG Mil Div Pac, on 17 Jan 1870, recommended to the War Department that the post buildings at Fort Churchill be tendered to the State at appraised value, and if declined, to be sold at public auction. The Quartermaster General of the Army concurred in this recommendation. Apparently, the offer to the State of Nevada was declined, as SO 58 Dept Calif, 2 Apr 1870, directed Capt. Wm. B. Hughes, AQM, to superintend the sale of the government buildings. It is stated that the sale realized \$750. The reservation was relinquished by the War Department 15 June 1871, and turned over to the General Land Office.

The remains of the soldiers buried in the post cemetery were reinterred in the cemetery at Carson City in 1884.

During the decade of its activity Fort Churchill had served its purpose by controlling the Indians of Central Nevada, protecting the settlements and patrolling the overland roads. When the railroad replaced the stage coaches the presence of troops was no longer required.

In 1935, Fort Churchill was designated a state park and historic landmark. Through years of neglect the buildings are in ruins. The crumbling adobe walls yet standing mark the arrangement of the old fort, but there is nothing tangible to recall the pride of the "Fort on the Carson River," Nevada's first and finest.

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#### MAPS

Atlas to accompany Official Records, *Plates CXX, CXXXIV*.

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Military Map of the United States, 1869. War Department, Office of the Chief of Engineers. E. Freyhold. National Archives.

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#### CAMP DUN GLEN

Camp Dun Glen was located in Dun Glen Canyon, in the East Humboldt Mountain Range, Pershing (Humboldt) County, north of Unionville. In 1906, Chafey was established on the site of Camp Dun Glen.

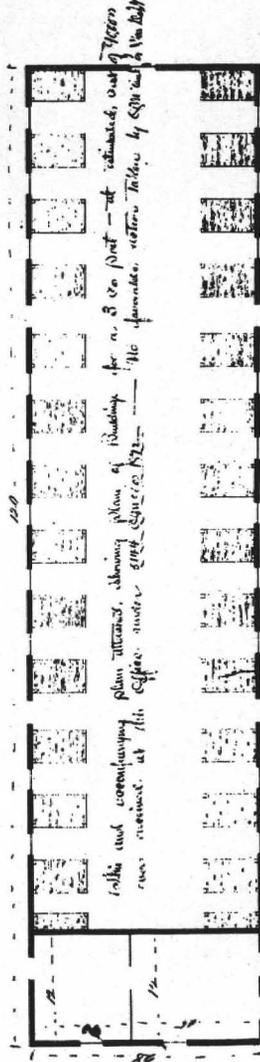
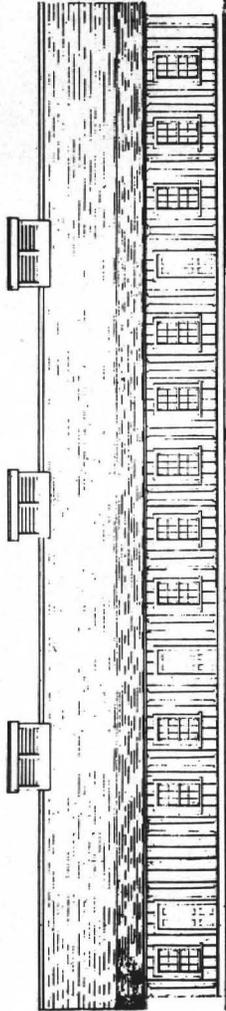
A camp was first established there in 1863 to protect settlers against attacks by hostile Indians.

In March 1865, residents of Dun Glen again asked for military protection, and Co B 2d Cav CV, under command of 1st Lt. R. A. Osmer, was sent there in June 1865. Shortly afterward Lieutenant Osmer was relieved by Capt. Geo. D. Conrad. The company remained until 30 April 1866, and was mustered out at Sacramento, California, 13 June 1866.

During the time the camp was occupied it served as a depot for troops operating in the field against Indians. The company while there conducted a number of scouts against hostile Indians on the Overland Route, along the Humboldt River, on the Oregon Route through Black Rock Range, in Paradise Valley, and on Quinn River.

The camp was abandoned in August 1866, in compliance with GO 21 Mil Div Pac, 1866.

Proposed —  
**MEN'S QUARTERS**  
 at ELKO, Nevada —



Section of proposed camp plans, Elko.

CAMP DUN GLEN BIBLIOGRAPHY

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1212, 1260, 1275, 1285, 1291, 1292.

MAPS

Atlas to accompany Official Records, *Plate CXX*.

CAMP ELDORADO

Camp Eldorado was located in (Lincoln) Clark County, north of and near the mouth of Eldorado Canyon, on the right (west) bank of the Colorado River, at Eldorado Ferry crossing, about 50 miles north of Camp Mojave, Arizona.

This was a temporary camp established to protect the important mining region of Eldorado Canyon against Indian depredations.

At first a guard of 10 soldiers was sent there from Camp Mojave on 15 Jan 1867; later a company. When mining operations were suspended, or abandoned, and the trade to Salt Lake City by way of the Colorado River was broken off, the company, except a small guard, was withdrawn and returned to Camp Mojave, 24 Aug 1867. Also, it was stated that the men were suffering there and were needed for field operations elsewhere.

CAMP ELDORADO BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Heitman, F. B. *Historical Register*, Vol. II, p. 497.  
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MAPS

Atlas to accompany Official Records, *Plate CXX*.  
Military map of the United States, 1869.  
Wheeler Survey, Index, 1880.

CAMP ELKO

Records in the National Archives of Camp Elko consist of 13 plans dated 1871. The camp was to be located at the town of Elko, Elko County. There is no ground plan in the set and several of the plans are described as proposed. No land was ever designated and no installation was built.

**FISH LAKE CAMP**

Fish Lake Camp was located near Fish Lake, Esmeralda County. Detachments of troops were sent from Camp Independence, in Owens Valley, California, from Dec 1866 to July 1867, to temporary camps in Nevada, near the White Mountain Range, to protect mining settlements in that region from Indians.

**FISH LAKE CAMP BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Report of the Secretary of War, 1866, p. 32.

**MAPS**

Atlas to accompany Official Records, *Plate CXXXIV*.  
Routes of Transcontinental Railways, 1883.  
Wheeler Survey, Index, 1880.

## MAJOR GENERAL HENRY WAGER HALLECK

Henry Wager Halleck was born at Westernville, Oneida County, New York, 16 Jan 1815. He was a cadet at USMA from 1 July 1835 to 1 July 1839, graduated third in the class of 31 cadets, and was appointed 2d Lt CE. Promoted 1st Lt CE 1 Jan 1845. At the outbreak of the War with Mexico he embarked at New York in July 1846, on the U.S. Sloop *Lexington* with Co F 3d Art for Monterey, California, arriving there in January 1847.



Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck.

Under his supervision a redoubt in the form of a bastion was constructed on a hill commanding the harbor anchorage, mounting in it twenty 20-pdr. guns and four 8-inch howitzers; first named Fort Halleck, later the designation was changed to Monterey Redoubt. He accompanied the military expedition under Lt. Col. H. S. Burton to Lower California where he engaged in several conflicts with the Mexican forces, serving as Aide-de-camp to Commodore W. B. Schurbrick from 16 Oct 1847 to 28 June 1848 (part of this period being Lieutenant Governor of Mazatlan, Mexico, and Chief of Staff of Captain Lavalette's naval forces ashore), and Chief of Staff in Colonel Burton's operations in Lower California, Mar 1848; Bvt Capt, 1 May 1847, for gallant conduct in affairs with the enemy, on 19 and 20 Nov 1847, and for meritorious services in California. Secretary of State of California under the military government of Generals Mason and Riley, 13 Aug 1847 to 20 Dec 1849. Member of the convention to form, and of the committee to draft the Constitution of the State of California, 1849. Aide-de-camp to Bvt. Brig. Gen. Bennet Riley, 1 Jan to 31 July 1850; Inspector and Engineer of Lighthouses on the Pacific Coast, 21 Dec 1852 to 1 Aug 1854; Capt CE 1 July 1853; resigned from the Army, 1 Aug 1854. Director General of New Almaden Quicksilver Mine, California, 1850-61; Counsellor at Law, San Francisco, California, 1853-61; President of Pacific and Atlantic Railroad, 1855; Major General California Militia, 1860-61; author of several works on mining law and international law, and translator of French works. Reappointed in the U.S. Army with the rank of Major General, 19 Aug 1861; in command of the Department of Missouri, 9 Nov 1861 to 11 Mar 1862, and of the Department of the Mississippi, 11 Mar to 11 July 1862, with headquarters at St. Louis, Missouri, from which he directed all the armies and military operations in the West, except while commanding in the field during the Corinth Campaign, 12 Apr to 11 July 1862—during this period he had under his command Generals Grant, Sherman and Buell; appointed General in Chief of the Armies of the United States, Headquarters at Washington, D.C., 11 July 1862 to 12 Mar 1864. When General Grant was promoted to Lieutenant General, General Halleck became Chief of Staff U.S. Army, from 12 Mar 1864 to 19 April 1865; in command of the Military Division of the James, 22 April to 1 July 1865; commander of the Mil Div Pac, 30 Aug 1865 to 1 June 1868; and of the Division of the South, Headquarters at Louisville, Kentucky, 17 June 1869 to 9 Jan 1872; died at Louisville, Kentucky, 9 Jan 1872. Aged 57.

Under his supervision a redoubt in the form of a bastion was constructed on a hill commanding the harbor anchorage, mounting in it twenty 20-pdr. guns and four 8-inch howitzers; first named Fort Halleck, later the designation was changed to Monterey Redoubt. He accompanied the military expedition under Lt. Col. H. S. Burton to Lower California where he engaged in several conflicts with the Mexican forces, serving as Aide-de-camp to Commodore W. B. Schurbrick from 16 Oct 1847 to 28 June 1848 (part of this period being Lieutenant Governor of Mazatlan, Mexico, and Chief of Staff of Captain Lavalette's naval forces ashore), and Chief of Staff in Colonel Burton's operations in Lower California, Mar 1848; Bvt Capt, 1 May 1847, for gallant conduct in affairs with the enemy, on 19 and 20 Nov 1847, and for meritorious services in California. Secretary of State of California under the military government of Generals Mason and Riley, 13 Aug 1847 to 20 Dec 1849. Member of the convention to form, and of the committee to draft



**Captain C.C.C. Carr, 1874.**



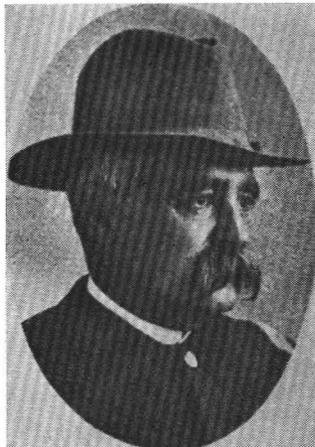
**General D. J. Craigie, 1876.**



**Dr. H. H. Haskill, Surgeon.**



**Lieutenant William Allen, 1876.**



**Colonel J. N. Andrews, 1878.**