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REPORT OF THE QUARTER-MASTER-GENERAL.

To His Excellency RODMAN M. PRICE, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of all the Military and Naval Forces of the State of New Jersey :

I have the honor to transmit the Annual Report of the number and condition of the arms and equipments belonging to the State of New Jersey, remaining in the State Arsenal, on the thirty-first day of December, A. D., eighteen hundred and fifty-five, with the issues and receipts at the arsenal since the twenty-second day of September, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, when in obedience to your Excellency's order, communicated by the Adjutant-General, I assumed the charge and direction of the same.

Herewith you will find a communication from my predecessor, giving a detailed report of the transactions of the office up to his resignation of the same, making a part of this my report.

ARMS AND EQUIPMENTS IN THE STATE ARSENAL.

5538 new flint lock muskets, in boxes.

3053 stand of arms in racks, 368 being new muskets.

30 percussion rifles ; 32 percussion muskets.

- 135 flint lock rifles, with equipments, having been in service.
- 500 cartridge box belts and plates.
- 500 waist-belts and plates.
- 240 cartridge boxes and plates.
- 510 bayonet scabbards.
- 450 cap pouches for muskets and rifles.
- 150 cross belts for rifles.
- 38 flasks and pouches for rifles.
- 105 cavalry sabres and belts, 63 have been in service.
- 159 pistols and holsters.
- 64 artillery swords and belts.
- 50 sergeant's swords and belts.
- 5 brass six-pounder cannon.
- 2 old French four-pounders, not mounted.
- 2 iron six-pounder cannon.
- 3 iron six-pounders, not mounted.
- 96 tents and 11 marques, with poles and pins.
- 425 strap and cannister shot, in boxes.

Issues.—There have been issued by me, the following arms and equipments, upon requisition and bond, pursuant to the statute :

1855, October 8.—Forty bright percussion muskets, with like number of cartridge boxes, bayonets scabbards and belts, and four sergeant's swords and belts, to Captain John B. Gribben, for the use of the "Trenton Volunteers," Trenton, Mercer Brigade.

October 9.—Thirty-six artillery swords and belts and plates. Also four sergeant's swords and belts to Captain Charles H. Pierson, for the use of the "National Artillery," Newark, Independent Essex Brigade.

October 10.—To the use of Colonel R. M. Smith, of the Regiment of Mercer Brigade, one pair of pistols, holsters and housings.

October 10.—To the use of Colonel R. F. Stockton, Assistant Adjutant-General, one pair of pistols, holsters and housings.

December 6.—Thirty-eight percussion rifles, with like number of slings, pouches, flasks, cartridge boxes and belts, with other usual implements. Also, four sergeant's swords and belts, to Captain Phillip J. Parisen, for the use of the "South Amboy Guards," South Amboy, Middlesex Brigade.

December 22.—Fifty percussion rifles, with like number of slings, pouches, flasks, cartridge boxes and belts, with other usual implements, and four sergeant's swords and belts, to Captain Jackson Conk, for the use of the "Monmouth Guards," of Blue Ball, Monmouth Brigade.

Receipts.—There have been returned into the State Arsenal the following arms and equipments :

1855—October 8.—Thirty-seven bright percussion muskets.

Thirty-five bayonets, twenty-eight scabbards.

Thirty cartridge boxes, with belts.

Twenty-eight percussion cap pouches.

Thirty waist-belts, by Captain Hugh McQuade, of the "Trenton Irish Volunteers," Trenton, Mercer Brigade.

November 7th.—Twenty brown muskets, with like number of bayonets, scabbards and waist-belts. Also, twenty-five bright percussion muskets, with bayonets.

Twenty-four cartridge boxes.

Twenty-four percussion cap pouches.

Twenty one cartridge box belts.

Twenty three bayonet scabbards.

Twenty waist-belts.

Four sergeant swords and belts, by Lieutenant William Pitcher, of the "Trenton City Guards," Trenton, Mercer Brigade.

There have been received the following military equipments from the Ordnance office, at Washington, on account of the annual quota of arms due to the State of New Jersey, under the Act of Congress for arming the militia of the several States :

September 6th, 1855.

100 artillery swords.

50 non-commission officer's swords.

100 sword belts, artillery, new pattern, black.

50 sword belts, non-commissioned, double frogs, black.

50 sword belt plates.

500 infantry cartridge box belts, black.

500 waist-belts, one-and-a-half-inch, black.

500 waist-belt plates.

December 20th.

5 cannon locks, for guns.

I would respectfully call your excellency's attention to the law requiring annual reports from the brigade inspectors.

By the act establishing a military system, approved April seventeenth, eighteen hundred and forty-six, section twenty-one, it is made the duty of the brigade inspectors "to inspect the arms and accoutrements of the militia of the several brigades, and to make returns annually," among other things, "on or before the first day of September, to the adjutant-general, the actual situation of the arms and accoutrements, &c., of the several corps," and by the ninety-fourth section of the same act it is made the duty of the quartermaster-general annually "to compare the returns made by the respective brigade inspectors of the number and condition of the public arms and equipments in the respective regiments, with the number actually loaned to such regiments," and he is also required in the first week of every session of the legislature, "to lay before them a particular return of all the arms and equipments belonging to the state, the number loaned out, in whose hands, and whether they remain under proper responsibilities."

By reason of the neglect on the part of the several brigade inspectors to make their annual reports, as required by law, I am not in the possession of reliable facts upon which I can communicate any satisfactory information to the legislature of the number and condition of the public arms and equipments loaned out, in whose hands, and whether they remain under proper responsibilities.

It is believed that there are a great number of arms in different parts of the state, heretofore issued, and not now in service, and that they have either fallen into the possession of independent companies, or into the hands of persons not responsible "for keeping them in good order and repair, and return to the arsenal when required."

It is very important to the interests of the state and to the military service thereof, that this office should be in the possession of correct returns, that proper steps may be taken to recall all such arms. and bring to account all delinquents.

Your excellency will observe by my report of arms now in the state arsenal, the small number of percussion muskets and rifles. Frequent applications are made upon this office by the different military corps, for an exchange of their flint lock muskets for percussion ; by reason of the very limited number, I have been compelled to decline the exchange, reserving those on hand for the equipment of new companies ; and it is believed that those in progress of organization will require all the percussion arms now remaining in the state arsenal.

I would therefore respectfully suggest that authority be given by the legislature to have such of the arms as are suitable for that purpose altered from flint lock to percussion, upon the best terms, and in such numbers as shall be required for immediate service ; such alteration to be made upon the plan adopted by the ordnance department at Washington.

Your attention is respectfully called to some repairs and improvements absolutely necessary to protect the property of the state from deterioration.

The dwelling of the state armorer will require during the present year a new roof, and some other repairs, to make it tenantable. During the last year, the roof was repaired, but it being so old and decayed was of little service. In the expense for roofing, the difference between a slate or metallic roof, and that of shingles, with the additional security against fire. it is proposed to adopt the former. The roof of the wings can be repaired for a trifling expense. The outhouse in

the rear of the arsenal, now used as a depot for the artillery and the artillery carriages, is greatly out of repair, and illy constructed for the purpose; so much exposed to dampness and every variation of the atmosphere, that it is almost impossible, without great care and labor, to keep the guns in order.

Should it be longer used for the purpose, considerable expense will be required to put it in proper condition. The ground floor of the south wing of the arsenal (now entirely unoccupied) can be fitted up at less expense, and will be better suited for the purpose than the present depot; besides there are in this wing a great number of wrought iron doors and brick partition walls, which, if removed and sold, will go far towards defraying the expenses of the proposed improvements. It is believed that these repairs and improvements can be done at an inconsiderable expense, compared with the large amount of valuable property of the state deposited in the arsenal, which I do not feel willing to make without legislative sanction.

All which is respectfully submitted.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS PERRINE,

Quarter-Master-General of N. J. M.

TRENTON, December 31, 1855.

To Lewis Perrine, Esq., Quarter-Master-General of New Jersey.

SIR:—Having presented my resignation to His Excellency Rodman M. Price, Governor of New Jersey, the 18th instant, which was accepted the 22d, with instructions to transfer all the state arms, property, papers, &c., belonging to the

State, in my charge, to my successor, "Quarter-Master-General, Lewis Perrine, who will receipt for the same"—and sir, in obedience thereunto, I hereby transfer and deliver the same to you, together with a report of issues at the State Arsenal up to this date, viz :

5538 new flint lock muskets, in boxes.

3028 stand of arms, in racks, three hundred and sixty-eight being new muskets, one hundred and eighteen percussion rifles, eighty-two percussion muskets, one hundred and thirty-five flint lock rifles, with equipments, having been in service.

500 cartridge box belts and plates.

500 waist-belts and plates.

240 cartridge boxes and plates.

510 bayonet scabbards.

450 cap pouches, for muskets and rifles.

150 cross belts, for rifles.

38 flasks and pouches, for rifles.

105 cavalry sabres and belts, sixty-three have been in service.

165 pistols and holsters.

100 artillery swords and belts.

50 sergeant swords and belts.

5 brass six-pounder cannon.

2 old French four-pounders, not mounted.

2 iron six-pounder cannon.

3 iron six-pounder cannon, not mounted.

96 tents and eleven marques, with poles.

425 strap and cannister shot, in boxes.

Issued, since the date of my last annual report—

January 30.—To Captain William H. Rossell, to the use of the "Trenton City Guards," Mercer Brigade, twenty-five percussion muskets, with equipments, and four sergeant swords.

February 1.—To Captain George Griffith, to the use of the

"City Blue," of Paterson, Passaic Brigade, two brass six-pounder cannon, with implements.

February 3.—To Colonel William M. Whitehead, to the use of the Second regiment of the Independent Essex Brigade, eleven pair of pistols, holsters and housings, to the use of field and staff officers.

February 19.—To Captain Joel M. Johnson, to the use of the "Washington [Continental Guards," of Paterson, fifteen percussion muskets, with equipments.

April 18.—To Captain Merit Convery, to the use of the "Paterson Rifles," Perth Amboy, Middlesex Brigade, thirty percussion rifles, with their equipments, and four sergeant swords.

May 19.—To Captain James T. Hatfield, to the use of the "Highwood Guards," Hoboken, Hudson Brigade, ten flint lock muskets, with equipments.

June 27.—To Captain S. Smith, to the use of the "Paterson Light Horse Troop," one hundred pistols and fifty sabres, with their equipments.

July 24.—To Captain John Harly, to the use of the "Newark Irish Volunteers," of the independent Essex Brigade, sixty percussion muskets, with equipments, and four sergeant swords.

September 3.—To Captain Garret G. Ackerman, to the use of the "Hackensack Continentals," of the Bergen Brigade, forty percussion muskets, with equipments, (except cartridge boxes and belts), with fifteen tents and one marque, poles, &c., returnable in November.

September 3.—To Colonel W. M. Babbit, to the use of the "Price Artillery of Orange," attached to the Essex Brigade, forty percussion muskets, with equipments, (except cartridge boxes and belts.)

1854—December 13.—*Received*, into the State Arsenal, viz:]

From the "Fink [Guards," Captain W. G. Hunt, Jersey City, Hudson Brigade, thirty [muskets, two swords, three

sword belts, twenty-seven bayonets, twenty-four cartridge boxes, fifty-eight cartridge box belts, eighteen waist-belts, twenty-three bayonet scabbards and fifty-seven plates.

1855—January 17.—*Received*, (without name), sixty pistols and sixty-two holsters, thirty-one sabre belts, thirty-three sabres, twenty-eight plates.

January 17.—*Received* from Captain Joseph Fritz, of the "Union Rifles," Hunterdon Brigade, twenty-five percussion rifles, with equipments, and four sergeant swords.

February 12.—Forwarded to Hitchcock & Co., three hundred muskets, to be altered to percussion, and eighty rifles, &c. Received from do., one hundred and sixty muskets, altered, and

July 21.—Received from do., eighty rifles and ten muskets, altered.

N. B.—The account current with that Company for their alterations and receipts not yet adjusted.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SAM. R. HAMILTON,
State Q. M. Gen'l of N. J.

TRENTON, Sept. 24, 1855.





