

FORT BRADY, MICH. (1825-1945)

The first military post at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. was established in June 1822 by Col. Hugh Brady with Companies A, B, D, I, and K, 2nd Infantry. It was located on the southern bank of the Sault Ste. Marie River, 15 miles from Lake Superior and 50 miles from Lake Huron. At first the post was known as the Post at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan Territory. In 1823 and part of 1824 it was referred to as the Post at St. Mary's, Michigan Territory, and later in 1824 and part of 1825 it was called Cantonment Brady. In 1825 its name was changed to Fort Brady. The post was garrisoned by regular troops until the Mexican War when they were temporarily withdrawn and their place taken by the 1st Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The Michigan volunteers withdrew from the post in the spring of 1848 and the post was unoccupied until June 1, 1849, when it was reoccupied by portions of the 2nd Infantry. As a result of threatened Indian hostilities in Minn. in 1857 the garrison was transferred to Fort Snelling and the public property of Fort Brady was left in the custody of an ordnance sergeant. The post remained unoccupied until May 8, 1866, when elements of the 4th Infantry were stationed there.

An act of Congress approved July 8, 1866, authorized the sale of the old post and establishment of a new Fort Brady in or near the town of Sault Ste. Marie but it was not until November 25, 1892, that the new post was occupied. The new post continued in use until it was declared surplus on October 1, 1945.

Records. 1873-1941. 15 ft.

The earliest records are dated 1873 and the latest 1941, but all the series have gaps in them. Included are: letters received, 1879-1908, with a few documents as early as 1873; registers of letters received, 1888-1910; letters sent, 1890-1906; orders, 1885-1941; miscellaneous documents extracted from the decimal files of the post, 1928-41; record of quartermaster expenditures upon the buildings on the reservation, 1890-1919; descriptive book of general prisoners, 1903-5 and morning reports of the prisoners, 1904-6; morning reports of a detachment of the hospital corps, 1903-8; records of the recruiting officer, consisting of letters sent, 1895-96 and a descriptive book of recruits, 1896-1906. There is also a record of interments of remains taken from the old post cemetery and reburied from about 1895-1905 in the Riverside Cemetery, Soo, Michigan.