

FORT LYON, COLO. TERR. (1860-89)

This was the first of two posts of the same name on the upper Arkansas River. General Orders No. 8, Headquarters of the Army, directed that a fort to be known as Fort Wise be built at the Big Timbers on the Arkansas River. It was established on August 29, 1860, at a site near Bent's Fort by Companies F, G, H, and K, of the 1st Cavalry. For some months the garrison believed themselves to be in Kansas. Among the officers of the first garrison were J.E.B. Stuart and nine other future Union and Confederate Generals. During the Civil War, the post was an important center for operations against the Indians. General Orders No. 11, Department of Kansas, June 25, 1862 renamed the post Fort Lyon, in honor of Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, killed at the battle of Wilson's Creek, August 10, 1861. General Orders No. 43, Department of Missouri, March 18, 1867, directed that the post be removed to another site. Company C, 7th Cavalry, and Companies G & I, 3rd Infantry, established the new fort. General Orders 69, Headquarters of the Army, August 31, 1889, directed Companies F and K, 18th Infantry, to abandon the post and proceed to Fort Logan.

Records. 1868-89. 4 ft.

The records consist of letters sent, 1868-72, 1874-89; endorsements, 1870-89; register of letters received, 1872-74, 1882-89; orders, 1870-89; charges and specifications, 1886-87; rosters, 1882-88.