

The Marion Rifles

For The Sun JOHN H HEWITT

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The Marion Rifles.

Editors of The Sun: The following paragraph appeared in the local department of your journal of Thursday, in the notice of the late Col Mendes I Cohen.

"The first Hebrew who ever held military rank in the State was Mendes I Cohen, who was elected captain of the Marion Rifles, a city volunteer company of friends of equal rights and privileges, declaring they would never rest in their efforts until Capt Cohen's right to hold the position was recognized by law."

The passage of the "Jewish emancipation act," as it was termed, by the Maryland Legislature—the first to set the ball in motion—is a matter of history, and, therefore, should be recorded correctly. Mendes I Cohen was never a member of the "Marion Rifle corps," nor was he ever elected to the command. Your reporter evidently confounded his name with that of his brother, Benjamin I Cohen, whose commission the adjutant general would not sign on account of constitutional disability, he being a Jew.

JOHN H HEWITT,

Surviving Captain of the Marion Rifle Corps.
Baltimore, May 8, 1879.