

the right of the Government to take the course it has in mustering out Col. Coover under the circumstances referred to, but quite sufficient to show that it has thought proper to do so, and that having done so, it was my duty to fill his place by another officer, which I did on the 24th Inst. by the appointment of Joseph M. Sudeburg. The Report of the Mustering out of the late Lieut. Col. and Major of the 3rd together with several other supernumerary officers was made to me by General Cooper Commanding the Brigade to which this Regiment is attached, by his letter of 24th Inst. — from which I quote as to his authority be in the premises —

"On the reorganization or rather consolidation of the 3rd and 4th Regiments, and the Battalion of Six Light Infantry by an order of the Secretary of War, the Lieut. Col. was taken from the 4th and the Major from the 3rd Regiment — that is Col. Sudeburg Commanding the 4th was reduced to a Lieut. Col., and Captain Kennedy of the 3rd promoted to a Major in the same Regiment — This was on the 7th of May last, from which day they ought respectively to take rank.

By the order of the Secretary of War directing the consolidation, all the officers who were found to be supernumerary whether field or line, were to be mustered out of the service, without regard to whether they were commissioned or not, and by a general order of Major Gen. Dix, promulgated through me as Commander of the Brigade all the officers supernumerary to the Regiment were accordingly mustered out — some 12 Captains and as many or more first and second Lieutenants came under the operation of this order, as well as Lieut. Col. Coover & Major Stratten."

Being thus officially informed that Lieut. Col. Coover had been mustered out by authority of the War Department, I repeat that I did not, and do not now feel inclined under the circumstances to question the right of the Government to do so, and in filling his place have been guided by the recommendations of the General Commanding the Brigade and the Colonel of the Regiment.

I have thus given you somewhat at large a history of Col. Coover's case as it has come to my knowledge, and the reasons which have governed my action and hope it may be satisfactory to you, and that he will acquiesce in its necessity.

Yours very Truly
A. W. Bradford