

the "Music Boys," were moved into the casemates of the South Battery, their barracks room being the present-day grill room. They were led by Sergeant (later Lieutenant) Michael Moore and belonged to the permanent party of the post, a group of selected personnel, whose specialized services and abilities made them ineligible for transfer. This pleasing circumstance, plus the privacy of the new quarters, notably aroused a sudden enthusiasm for music among the enlisted men of the garrison and prompted swarms of applications for assignment to the "Music Boys."

A new set of quarters for the Commanding General was completed in 1840 in the position it still occupies, as was the present Quarters 9, which has since served in turn as a blockhouse, headquarters, hospital, and officers' quarters. Another dual-purpose structure was the brick building erected five years later, immediately south of the Governor's House. This was originally designed for a commissary storehouse and was so used until 1920, when it was converted to its present status of officers' quarters. The house is of special interest because it offers an authentic copy of the Dutch style of architecture used in the local homes of the early settlers from Holland. Further building was held up by the impending Mexican War, which in 1847 again saw Governors Island playing a leading role in the national excitement.

Public opinion in New York was decidedly against our invasion of Mexico, and the Army's call for volunteers met with bitter and abusive opposition. The newspapers published lurid articles denouncing all military activities, but in spite of all this the 1st New York Volunteer Infantry was successfully mustered on Governors Island under the command of Colonel Ward Burnett. Notwithstanding, a particularly libelous denunciation by the New York Tribune - which the newspaper had the good grace to retract the next day - the City of New York presented the regiment with a stand of colors which were the first U.S. flags to be carried over the walls of the Castle of Chapultepec when the Mexican stronghold was stormed on Sept. 13, 1847. Previously the 1st New York had served gallantly in the battles of Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo Pass, City of Pueblo, Contreras, and Churubusco,

and was to be with the 1st Division when that outfit triumphantly entered Mexico City on Sept. 14. These historic colors are now preserved in the Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion.

It was in this era of constantly changing conditions and personnel on Governors Island that there came to the garrison a man who would have a more permanent and beneficial effect on the little Army community than any other individual in its history.

The Reverend John McVickar, D.D., was born in New York City in 1787 and after entering the ministry of the Episcopal Church, occupied the chair of moral and intellectual philosophy at Columbia College, then at Park Place near the Battery. A person of great culture and distinction in the city's literary and ecclesiastic circles, Dr.

McVickar was also active in mission work through his association with Trinity Church. His reputation for particular concern with soldier problems brought him in 1844, an invitation from the War Department to become chaplain of Fort Columbus. As he was then 57, his family and friends tried to dissuade him from adding the duties of an Army chaplain to his academic responsibilities. But, the good doctor was adamant in his determination to accept the offer and, since the government call came during the summer recess

of the college, he entered upon his new work without delay. For the next 18 years in winter and summer, in fair weather and foul, this devoted priest commuted daily between his civil and military assignments. Clad in a soldier's cap and long cloak, he soon became as familiar a figure on the island as on the college campus.

When Dr. McVickar first entered upon his chaplaincy, he found no place on the island reserved for religious worship and was forced to hold his services in a small grove of trees near the present Colonel's Row. When outside services were unacceptable, services were held in a large room in Post Headquarters, provided it was not needed for military business. Possessed of considerable initiative, the doctor soon determined to make an effort to obtain a chapel, but his first attempts were unavailing. There was at that time, no set program of reli-

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