

DRAFT

Front

To the Boys in Blue; the Union soldiers of the “California Column” and the California Volunteers who defended the Arizona Territory during the Civil War.

The California Column consisted of various Companies from:

1<sup>st</sup> California Volunteer Infantry  
1<sup>st</sup> California Volunteer Cavalry  
2<sup>nd</sup> California Volunteer Cavalry  
Light Battery A, 3rd U. S. Artillery  
5<sup>th</sup> California Infantry  
1861-1865



7th California Volunteer Infantry (1864-66)  
Not part of the “California Column”

Side A

In Memory of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, California Cavalry Volunteers, killed by Confederates at Picacho Pass  
April 15, 1862:

Lieut. James Barrett, Co A

Private George Johnson, Co A.

Private William S. Leonard Co. A  
Died of wounds April 16, 1862

Side B

In Memory of the following who were killed by Apaches at Apache Pass, Territory of Arizona  
June 18, 1862,

Sergeant William Wheeling, Co F, 1<sup>st</sup> California Infantry  
June 24, 1862,

Private Albert Schmidt, Co. B. 1<sup>st</sup> California Cavalry  
Private James F. Keith, Co B., 1<sup>st</sup> California Cavalry  
Private Peter Maloney, Co. B., 1<sup>st</sup> California Cavalry

In Memory of California Volunteers killed by Apaches at the Battle of Apache Pass July 15-16, 1862:

Private Charles O’Brien, Co G. 1<sup>st</sup> California Infantry  
Private John Barr, Co E, 1st, California Infantry

## Rear side

### The California Column and the Civil War in the Southwest



In 1861 the Confederate government hoped to gain a foothold in the territories of Arizona, New Mexico, and the state of California and in 1862 Confederate forces from Texas invaded the territory of New Mexico for that purpose. After finding little or no resistance from U. S. Army troops in an area of New Mexico commonly referred to as Arizona (they were, for the most part, withdrawn to assist in other areas of the country) Confederate troops occupied Tucson.

To counter the invasion, a portion of California volunteer troops nicknamed “The California Column” entered Arizona from California through Yuma and following the old Butterfield Stage route headed to Tucson. On April 15, 1862, Confederate forces were discovered at Picacho Pass (about 50 north of Tucson) which resulted in the skirmish or (Battle) of Picacho Pass costing the lives of three soldiers from the “Column.” The “Column” continued to Tucson and finding that Confederate forces had withdrawn continued east to Texas. During this activity it lost six soldiers from contacts with the Apache Indians.

After securing the territory of Arizona the “Column” and later, the 7<sup>th</sup> California Volunteer Infantry, remained throughout the war to thwart any re-invasion by Confederate forces and to provide protection to miners, ranchers, farmers and civilians of the fledgling territory. Many of the Volunteers, once mustered out in California, chose to return to work and live in Arizona, thus contributing to its formation and prosperity.