

African American Union Volunteers in Arizona Territory, 1865-66

The new Company A, First Regiment of Cavalry, California Volunteers, commanded by Captain [Ebenezer C. Ledyard](#), served as an escort to Brigadier General [John Sanford Mason](#), United States Volunteers. General Mason commanded the District of Arizona from March 7, 1865, to April 30, 1866. The company was stationed in Arizona Territory from mid May 1865 to February 1866.

William R. Brown enrolled at Oroville, California, February 18 and mustered-in as Cook, Company A (New), 1st California Cavalry, at Sacramento, California, March 6, 1865. At enlistment he was described as age 22 years, that he was born a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and that he was a Cook of African descent. Cook Brown mustered-out at Presidio of San Francisco, California, May 22, 1866.

Abraham Cato enrolled at Oroville, February 18 and mustered-in as Cook, Company A (New), 1st California Cavalry, at Sacramento, March 6, 1865. At enlistment he was described as age 25 years, that he was born at Kings County, New York, and that he was a Cook of African descent. His Compiled Military Service Record shows that during September and October 1865 he was on Detached Service (as Colored under Cook) to Brigadier General Mason. Cook Cato mustered-out at San Francisco, California, May 14, 1866.

Cristopher Kyle enrolled and mustered-in at Sacramento, as Cook, Company A (New), 1st California Cavalry, February 28, 1865. At enlistment he was described as age 33 years, that he was born at Natchez, Mississippi, and that he was a Cook of African descent. Cook Kyle mustered-out at Presidio of San Francisco, May 22, 1866.

The above information is from the Compiled Military Service Records housed at the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., for the above three enlisted volunteers. The links for the above two officers shows biographical essays prepared by Senator Carl T. Hayden, 1877-1972.