

Conflicting Views

The Commander's Quarters

The commander's quarters was the largest building on Fort Humboldt. Major Gabriel Rains lived here from 1856-1860 with his wife, six children, a servant named Caroline and Pheny, a young indentured Indian girl. After the bloody Indian Island massacre of 1860, Rains sheltered over 300 Indians at the Fort, and provided them with an armed escort to Klamath. This event made Rains into a convenient scapegoat, criticized by both sides--locals who felt the Army should have removed or exterminated the Indians for good, and people who were sympathetic to the massacre victims. Rains resigned shortly after this incident, and at the onset of the Civil War, joined the ranks of the Confederacy.



Gabriel Rains

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