

NOTE: MOUNTED STATUS OF CIVIL WAR INFANTRY OFFICERS

Regulations of the era indicate that commissioned officers were permitted horses, although one cannot conclude from this that all junior officers were mounted. The authority, at least, existed. See:

U.S. War Dept. Regulations for the Army of the United States, 1857. p. 129. AR.

_____. Revised Regulations for the Army of the United States, 1861. p. 166. AR.

_____. Revised United States Army Regulations of 1861... p. 166. AR.

Although horses for cavalry, artillery, and transportation were issued by the Quartermaster's Department, commissioned officers of infantry supplied their own mounts. See:

Patton, George. Army Manual: Containing Instruction for Officers... NY: Fortune, 1864. p. 73.
U133P27.

U.S. Laws, Statutes, etc. A Digest of the Military Laws of the United States... Boston: Little, Brown, 1868. p. 196. UB500.1867.A11.

Officers who procured horses from public sources were required to underwrite the cost.
Reference:

U.S. War Dept. Army Regulations, cited above. See 1857, ed., p. 133; 1862 ed., pp. 168-69; and 1863 ed., pp. 168-69.

Further evidence for mounted line infantry officers:

U.S. War Dept. General Order No. 171, 9 Jun 1863. AuthPub-GO.
Disposal of relieved officer's mount.

U.S. Laws, Statutes, etc. A Digest..., cited above.
See pp. 253-54 for regulation of pay of officers requiring mounted service.

U.S. Quartermaster's Department. Q.M.D., or Book of Reference for Quartermasters. Louisville, KY: Morton, 1865. UC32J41.
Disposal of a relieved or transferred officer's mount on p. 79.

The above evidence aside, one should not assume that company-grade officers were mounted either in combat or on campaign. A survey of tactical manuals of the period uncovered no definitive statement concerning their mounted or dismounted status. They describe officers in the ranks with terminology like "touching with the left elbow," "posted in a line," and "measuring from heels to heels," which suggests dismounted status. The same manuals also reveal that the field-grade officers obviously were mounted. See:

Casey, Silas. Infantry Tactics, for the Instruction, Exercise, and Maneuvers of the Soldier, A Company, Line of Skirmishers, Battalion, Brigade, or Corps D'Armee. Vol 1. NY: Van Nostrand, 1963. pp. 12-15. UD160C3.

Scott, Winfield. Infantry Tactics or, Rules for the Exercise and Maneuvers of the United States Infantry. Vol I. NY: Harper, 1861. pp. 10-14. UD160A3.