

The California Volunteers and the Civil War: 1st Regiment of Cavalry 1861-1866

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Companies Included in Regiment: (Continued)

- Company F, First Regiment of Cavalry:
Headquarters: Camp Merchant, Oakland
Mustered in December 15, 1863
Mustered out Fall of 1866
- Company G, First Regiment of Cavalry:
Headquarters: Camp Merchant, Oakland
Mustered in June 13, 1863
Mustered out September 15, 1866
- Company H, First Regiment of Cavalry:
Headquarters: Camp Merchant, Oakland
Mustered in December 31, 1863
Mustered out September 20, 1866
- Company I, First Regiment of Cavalry:
Headquarters: Camp Merchant, Oakland
Mustered in November 12, 1863
Mustered out May 22, 1866
- Company K, First Regiment of Cavalry:
Headquarters: Camp Merchant, Oakland
Mustered in May 16, 1863
Mustered out August 17, 1866
- Company L, First Regiment of Cavalry:
Headquarters: Camp Merchant, Oakland
Mustered in August 15, 1863
Mustered out June 28, 1866
- Company M, First Regiment of Cavalry:*
Headquarters: Camp Merchant, Oakland
Mustered in May 16, 1863
Mustered out September 30, 1866

Activities of the First Regiment of Cavalry:

At first this organization was formed into a battalion consisting of five companies. It was not until 1863 that a full regiment was recruited composed of twelve companies. This Regiment of Cavalry was organized under the President's first call to the State of California for troops in suppressing the rebellion.**

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*Company M, First Regiment of Cavalry, was the last California volunteer Company in the United States Service.

**Charles S. Thompson was the first man to enlist in this regiment. He enlisted at Folsom, California, as a member of Company C.

Activities of the First Regiment of Cavalry: (Continued)

The first commanding officer of the regiment was Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin F. Davis, who was formerly an officer of the regular army, having been admitted to the United States Military Academy in 1850, from the State of Mississippi. He was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel of the First Regiment of Cavalry on August 19, 1861, and resigned as such on November first of the same year, to return to duty in his old regiment.* Colonel Davis was succeeded in command by Major Edward E. Eyre, who was immediately promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and commanded the regiment until his resignation was accepted November 30, 1862.

After the battalion became a full regiment, Major David Ferguson was promoted to its Colonelcy, holding that rank until dismissed from the service on November 6, 1863.** On the twenty-sixth of November 1863, Oscar M. Brown was promoted Colonel; and commanded the First Regiment of Cavalry until his resignation was accepted on December 31, 1865. During the balance of the time until the regiment was finally mustered out it was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Clarence E. Bennett and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel William McCleave. McCleave was commissioned Colonel of the regiment but was never mustered as such, owing to the fact the regiment had fallen below the minimum required by law.

After the First Regiment of Cavalry was organized it was sent to the Southern part of the state, three companies being stationed at Camp Latham near Los Angeles, and two at Camp Carelton near San Bernardino. The unit remained in Southern California until the Spring of 1862, when it became part of, and formed the advance of the California Column during the march to New Mexico and Texas. The activities of the First Regiment of Cavalry run parallel with those of the California Column, having taken part in many outstanding events. The unit was mustered out of service during the year of 1866.

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*Lieutenant Davis was breveted Major on the fifteenth of September 1862, for meritorious service at Harpers Ferry, and was killed at the Battle of Beverly Ford, Virginia, on the ninth of June 1863.

**Major Ferguson commanded the regiment during the month of July 1862, as Major only.

Company A:

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland
Mustered in between August 15 and October 31, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864.

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William McCleave, Captain	Aug. 15, 1861	Aug. 31, 1861
Benjamin F. Harvey, First Lieut.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Albert H. French, Captain	Feb. 9, 1863	March 9, 1863
Samuel H. Allyne, First Lieut.*	Nov. 4, 1863	Nov. 4, 1863
Joseph Felner, First Lieut.	_____	May 4, 1864
E. C. Ledgard, Captain	_____	March 2, 1865
Thomas Dean, First Lieut.	_____	March 2, 1865

Activities:

Company A was organized in 1861, as one of five companies under the first presidential call for troops to assist in suppressing the rebellion. This company was sent to and remained in the southern part of California until the spring of 1862, at which time it was made part of the California Column, marching into New Mexico and Texas.

During March of 1862, Company A took part in a battle at Stanwix Rancho in Arizona Territory. This encounter was with an advance part of Colonel Baylor's Confederate Texan Rangers under Captain Hunter. Leaving Stanwix Rancho on April 8, 1862, the company marched a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, reaching Pichacho Pass, Arizona Territory, on April fifteenth. A detachment of the company had an engagement there with a group of Rebels, which took the lives of Second Lieutenant Barrett and Private George Johnston. The companies of the First Cavalry were then ordered to assemble at Pimos Villages, Arizona Territory, where a permanent camp was established and named Fort Barrett in honor of the young Lieutenant who was killed in action at Picacho. They remained there until the twenty-fourth of May, when Lieutenant Colonel Eyre was ordered to reoccupy old Fort Breckenridge, Arizona Territory.**

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*Lieutenant Allyne was killed by a member of Company A, December 29, 1863, and was replaced by Lieutenant Felner.

**Fort Breckenridge was later renamed Fort Stanford, in honor of the Governor of California.

COMPANY A FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Company A was one of the many companies to arrive on the Rio Grande after the Confederates had been driven out of the country. This having been accomplished the companies were then stationed at different posts to be sent out on Indian scouting expeditions. During the months that followed, Company A took part in many Indian battles. About January 20, 1863, Captain McCleave and twenty men from this unit attacked a party of Mangus Colorado Apaches, killing eleven and wounding the Chief's wife. Another attack was made during July when Captain A. H. French with twenty-seven men came in contact with sixth Apache Indian warriors, killing ten and capturing four horses. This encounter took place near Fort Thorn.

The company, during the remainder of the year and until May 1864, was continuously engaged in Indian scouting expeditions. The corps was mustered out at Las Cruces, New Mexico, in August. The men who reenlisted were placed in the newly organized Company A. There is very little history of the activities of the new company. It was located for a time at Drum Barracks, California, and later at Fort Whipple, where the final muster out took place on May 22, 1866.

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COMPANY B FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company B:

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland
Mustered in between August 15 and October 31, 1861
Mustered out August 1864

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Emil Fritz, Captain	Sept. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Juan F. Guirado, First Lieut.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
R. C. Vose, Captain	_____	Nov. 18, 1864
Ephriam C. Bladwin, First Lt.	_____	May 4, 1864
Lewis F. Sanborn, Captain	_____	April 29, 1865

Activities:

Company B was the second unit organized at Camp Merchant, Oakland, in response to the President's call for troops in the War of the Rebellion. The company was then sent to the southern part of the State, remaining there until the Spring of 1862, at which time it became part of the California Column. Being one of the five companies forming the advance of the Column, Company B marched with them to New Mexico and Texas.

During June of 1863, the Column traveled a distance of two hundred and fifty-eight miles, enroute to Fort Stanton, New Mexico. From then until August 1864, the company was on scout and picket duty. The terms of the enlisted men had expired and on August thirty-first the company was mustered out of the service.

A new company was then organized in New Mexico by consolidating the men whose terms had not expired. On November twenty-fifth they made an attack on a Kiowa Village situated near the old adobe fort on the Canadian River in northern Texas. After a severe battle the Indians were compelled to retreat with a loss of sixty warriors killed and wounded. The Indian village consisted of one hundred and fifty lodges, which were completely destroyed, together with a large amount of dried meats, berries, buffalo robes, powder and cooking utensils.*

Company B was stationed at Forts Wingate, Stanton and Sumner, New Mexico, during the following two years and was mustered out of service at Fort Sumner during September 1866.

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*Companies K and M of this regiment, also one company from the First California Infantry and two companies of the First New Mexico Cavalry participated in this expedition.

COMPANY C FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company C:

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland
Mustered in August 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
E. D. Sherland, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Porter Hayden, First Lieutenant	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
Charles P. Nichols, Captain	_____	May 4, 1864
James Longhead, First Lieut.	_____	Nov. 18, 1864

Activities:

Company C was one of the five companies organized at Camp Merchant, Oakland, during August of 1861, in response to the President's call for volunteers in the war of the Rebellion. After being mustered into the service the company was sent to the southern part of the State where it became a part of the California Column and marched into New Mexico and Texas.

During the fall of 1862, Company C was stationed at a camp on the Rio Grande River in Arizona Territory. A report from there was sent to Lieutenant B.C. Cutler,* relating to the activities of the company during the latter part of August 1862, and read as follows:

Camp on Rio Grande,
September 2, 1862

Lieutenant:

I have the honor to state that, pursuant to instructions received from General James H. Carleton, commanding Column from California, I left this camp at 3 o'clock P.M., August twenty-third, enroute to Fort Davis; encamped at 8 o'clock the same evening, having marched fifteen miles. Started at daybreak of the twenty-fourth and arrived at Eagle Springs at 9:30 A.M.--seventeen miles. Found the springs filled with

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*Acting Assistant Adjutant General for the California Column,
Franklin, Texas.

COMPANY C FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

rubbish and carrion; by cleaning them out, succeeded in obtaining water for men and animals. There being no grass in the vicinity, I left the springs at 4 P. M. Marched about five miles, and made a dry camp--grass abundant and good. Started at daybreak and marched twenty miles to Van Horn's Wells; found these wells entirely filled up. Cleaned out one of them, but found it impossible to obtain sufficient water for the men. Many of the horses being unable to proceed further, I thought it best to go on from here with twenty men and picked horses, taking the ambulance with me. Accordingly I directed Lieutenant Haden to retrace his steps to Eagle Springs with the remainder of the detachment, to clean out the springs thoroughly and remain there eight days, unless he received other orders from me. If, at the expiration of eight days, I should not have returned or sent back an express, I directed him to return to the river and wait for me there two days, and then proceed up the river and report to General Carleton. I left Van Horn's Wells at about 4 o'clock P. M. and arrived at "Dead Man's Hole" at about 2 A. M. Found sufficient water there for the animals, but not enough for a company--distance thirty-five miles. Started at 6:30 A.M. and arrived at Barrel Springs at 3 P.M., having halted on the road to graze the animals. Found water enough at these springs for one company. Remained here that night and on the next afternoon sent forward Corporal Bartlett, with one private and the Mexican guide, to find out the condition of affairs at Fort Davis, distant eighteen miles.

They returned about noon the next day, having performed their duty in such a manner that if the fort had been occupied by the Confederate States troops their (Corporal Bartlett and party's) presence could not have been discovered. They reported the fort unoccupied, and I, thinking it best not to send back for the company, on account of the scarcity of water, proceeded to the fort. I found it entirely deserted, but in one of the buildings of the Overland Mail Company I found the dead body of a man lying on the floor. He had been shot through the body with a bullet, and had an arrow wound on the head and one on the arm. From the appearance of the room I think it had been used by the Confederate troops as a hospital and this man left there sick and afterwards killed by the Indians. I had the body buried. The fort appears to have been garrisoned by the Confederate States troops since their first appearance in the country, by at least a portion of one company. It also seemed to have been used as a rendezvous for sick soldiers, but they had all left with the last detachment for San Antonio. The following is a description of the

COMPANY C FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

buildings at the fort:

Five company quarters, about 80 by 25 feet, one story high, built of stone, thatched roof. Four of these buildings are in fair condition; the roof, doors and windows of one have been burned.

One guard-house, about 80 by 25 feet; building stone; roof, doors and windows burned.

One Quartermaster store-house, about 100 by 20 feet, built of stone; roof, doors and windows entirely destroyed; surrounded by several small buildings, use not known.

One wooden or slab building, 30 by 16 feet, thatched roof, used as an Adjutant's office.

One wooden building, 36 by 27 feet, with kitchen and several small outbuildings, supposed to have been the commanding officer's quarters. On this building the flag was hoisted, and kept up during one day.

One wooden building, 48 by 22 feet, with the kitchen and outhouses attached, supposed to have been officer's quarters.

One wooden building, 22 by 12 feet, with one small outbuilding, 10 by 14.

One wooden building, 36 by 18 feet.

One building, 14 by 12.

One slab building, 40 by 15 feet.

One slab building, 50 by 14 feet.

One slab building, 20 by 12 feet.

One slab building, 20 by 12 feet.

One slab building, 30 by 15 feet.

One slab outhouse, 10 by 12 feet.

Seven small slab houses.

One slab stable, 50 by 14.

One stone and mud house.

Three small slab buildings.

These are estimated measurements, as I had no other means of doing. One overland mail station, consisting of houses, store-houses, shop, stables, saddlery, granary, etc.

One adobe building, formerly used as a store. Many of the doors and windows have been destroyed. Some seem to have been hauled off, others burned. One wagon stands loaded with lumber.

I have heard as report, in fact, that the entire fort was sold by Confederate States officers to some party at Del Norte, Mexico. Property consists of some iron in Quartermaster's store-house, some one hundred horsehoes, two old citizen wagons, several wagons and cart-wheels, empty barrèls, several chains, many hospital bedsteads, but all broken or in a dilapidated condition.

Activities: (continued)

I started from the fort on my return at daylight on the thirtieth and marched to Dead Man's Hole, watered the animals, and made a dry camp in the prairie. Left Camp at 9 A. M. and marched about ten miles, when an Indian made his appearance with a white flag, followed by five others, all mounted. I tried to hold a talk with them, but they seemed unwilling to have anything to say, they being followed by twenty-five or thirty more mounted men, and still farther behind by a large party on foot; and it being evident that their only intention was to gain time and delay us until they could surround us, I ordered the men to fire upon them. A fight immediately ensued, they making every effort to surround us, coming towards us in every direction, a large proportion of them mounted.

Wishing to get rid of the footmen, I made a running fight of it, expecting the mounted men to follow, which they did for a short distance, but finding it too hot for them they returned. They left four men dead on the field, two of them the leaders, respectively, of the mounted and foot men. I have good reason to believe that at least twenty were wounded. I had two men wounded, one slightly and one painfully, by a pistol ball in the shoulder. I had also one horse wounded. I then came on to Eagle Springs, where I arrived at 11 o'clock P. M., watered all my animals, and found that Lieutenant Haden, with the remainder of the command, had left for the river several days before. Camped there for the remainder of the night, and on the next day proceeded to the river, arriving there about 5 o'clock P. M., and found Lieutenant Haden with the remainder of the command, he stating that he could not find sufficient water at Eagle Springs for the use of the animals. I omitted in the foregoing report to state that about ten miles from Van Horn's Wells I met two Mexicans coming this way. I arrested them and brought them to this camp, where I released them, and they went on up the river, and will report to General Carleton in person.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. Shirland,
Captain Company C, First Cavalry, Calif. Volunteers

On the seventeenth of January 1863, Captain Shirland captured Mangus Colorado, an Apache Chief, and brought him into Fort McCleave, New Mexico, as a prisoner. The following morning in attempting to escape the Chief was shot by one of the guards.

COMPANY C FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Several days later the Gila Apaches made a descent upon a public herd of horses which was grazing near Fort West, New Mexico, and succeeded in running off sixty of them. Company C was among those sent in pursuit of these Indians. They came upon the tribe's rancheria late that same evening, and after twenty minutes of fighting had completely routed the Indians and recaptured all of the stolen horses that could be found. During this encounter there were twenty-five Indians killed; the rancheria, including the provisions possessed by the Gila Apaches, was completely destroyed.

In March of 1864 a detachment of men from this company took part in another attack upon the Apache Indians. Returning to Camp Miembres, New Mexico, in April 1864, they destroyed another rancheria and took forty head of horses and mules. From April 1864 through July, the company was located at San Elizario, Texas. It was mustered out at Las Cruces, New Mexico on August thirty-first. A new Company C was then formed, although there are no records pertaining to its activities. As a part of the Column, Company C left the Rio Grande on October 15, 1866, to be mustered out at the San Francisco Presidio on December 31, 1866.

COMPANY D FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company D:

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland
Mustered in October 31, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William Singer, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
A. H. French, First Lieut.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
N. C. Pishon, Captain	Feb. 24, 1862	Feb. 24, 1862
William V. B. Wardwell, First Lieutenant	Feb. 9, 1863	March 9, 1863

Activities:

Company D was one of the first five companies of volunteers assembled at Camp Merchant, Oakland, who answered the President's first call for troops in the War of the Rebellion. This company was sent to the southern part of the state and in 1862 formed the advance for the California Column. Marching into New Mexico and Texas, Company D took part in many military achievements, one of which was wresting control of Tucson, Arizona, from the Confederate forces, which was effected April 20, 1862.

On the eleventh of October 1862, General Carleton ordered an expedition including Company A to Dog Canyon, New Mexico, against the Mascalero Apaches, to cooperate with an expedition under Colonel "Kit" Carson, who was ordered with five companies of his regiment, the First New Mexico Cavalry, to re-occupy Fort Stanton, New Mexico. As a result of this expedition, the Mascalero Apaches were completely subdued and four hundred of them taken prisoners.

During this time gold was being discovered in Arizona, which required the outlining of new and shorter routes to the gold fields. Captain Pishon of Company D was sent as an escort to Surveyor-General Clark to the newly discovered gold fields, near where the city of Preston now stands. A copy of a letter to Captain Pishon follows:

Headquarters Department of New Mexico
Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 22, 1863

Captain Nathaniel J. Pishon,
Company D, First California Cavalry,
Fort Craig, New Mexico

Captain: I send you a man of New Mexico, on which I desire that you will trace your route to and from the new gold fields, in obedience to orders to go as escort to Surveyor-General Clark.

COMPANY D FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Have great care taken of your animals. When you arrive at the new diggings, I want each of your men to prospect and wash, and I want you to report the exact time they severally work, and the amount of gold each one obtains in return for his labor during that time. Much reliance will be placed upon these statistics. The people must not be deceived, nor inveigled into that distant country without knowing well what they may expect to find.

If the country is as rich as represented--and I have to doubt of this--there will on your return, be a revolution in matters here which no man now can ever dream of. I have written to the authorities at Washington that if the country is as rich as reported, on your return I shall send two companies of California troops to establish a post in the heart of the gold region. Your company may, perhaps, be one of them, so you will have an eye to the best location of a post for one company of infantry and one of cavalry.

In returning by the Whipple route to Albuquerque, mark the country well for the whole way from the gold region. Take your best men with you, and things to wash with. Send me a few specimens for the War Department on your return. Wishing you good fortune.

I am, Captain, very respectfully your obedient servant,

James H. Carleton
Brigadier-General Commanding

The general history of this company is identical to that of the California Column.* The unit was mustered out August 31, 1864, and a new Company D was then reorganized which continued with the California Column, sharing in the accomplishments of the Union forces in that vicinity. The company left the Rio Grande, October 15, 1866, and was mustered out at the Presidio in San Francisco on December 31, 1866.

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*Record of California Men in the War of the Rebellion (1890)
page 68.

COMPANY E FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company E:

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland
Mustered in August 15, 1861
Mustered out August 31, 1864-March 6, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William C. Meade, Captain	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
C. P. Nichols, First Lieut.	Aug. 16, 1861	Sept. 16, 1861
C. R. Wellman, Captain	April 1, 1862	April 4, 1862
E. C. Baldwin, First Lieut.	_____	May 4, 1864
R. H. McMillroy, Captain	_____	April 28, 1865
Cyrus E. Stow, First Lieut.	_____	April 24, 1865
J. J. Marcher, First Lieut.	_____	Nov. 21, 1865

Activities:

Company E was assembled at Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland, October 31, 1861, in response to the President's first call for troops in the War of the Rebellion. The company was sent at once to Southern California, where in the Spring of 1862 it became part of the California Column.

The general history of the company being the same as that of the Column, Company E is mentioned in a number of outstanding events. During the month of May, 1862, the unit acted as the advance guard for the Column when taking possession of Tucson, Arizona. On the twentieth of July Company E was of the first command ordered to the Rio Grande to take possession of that territory. It was during this time that the company, as one of the advance guard, helped in placing the American flag over Forts Thorn, Fillmore, Bliss and Mesilla, all in Texas.

There are no further records pertaining to the activities of this company except for an interesting procedure in the election of an officer to fill the vacancy of Second Lieutenant in the unit. Lieutenant Colonel Brown of this regiment recommended Jerome Stockwell, who at that time was his acting Sergeant Major. The high esteem he held for this young staff officers was colorfully divulged by Colonel Brown in a written introduction to Governor Stanford.* He acclaimed Jerome Stockwell as being "the son of one of Stockton's oldest and most worthy citizens," and also "a gentlemen of wealth and influence who was capable and worthy of the commission." He stated that this young man was the most worthy of any member of the regiment to fill the vacancy, being well versed in the drill and duties of a soldier, capable of associating with gentlemen and of

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*Letter on file in State Archives, State Capitol.

COMPANY E FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

strictly temperate habits. There were however in the city of Stockton a group of men who objected to Jerome Stockwell being given this commission and protested bitterly by communicating with the Governor and depicting Stockwell's life as being anything but wholesome.* News had reached these men to the effect that the Governor had issued the commission although Stockwell had not as yet received it. They felt it their duty to inform the Governor that this much criticized lad of twenty years should never receive the commission as he was "by far one of the worst boys that had ever infested the town. After abandoning his father's house he had lived openly with whom ever would support him and had long been the associate of gamblers."

The foregoing illustrates what a precarious position the Governor was in when selecting commanding officers. Such letters as the above mentioned were received in great numbers by the Governor whenever there was a vacancy to be filled. The letters were often the results of jealousy on the part of certain individuals who wished to receive such a commission themselves. In this particular case, whatever the motive, the information seemed to have no bearing upon the Governor as Jerome Stockwell was promoted to Second Lieutenant of Company E on September 8, 1863, and the following year on July twenty-third, he was made First Lieutenant. He resigned to accept the commission as Captain and Acting Quartermaster of the United States Volunteers on August 21, 1865.**

The company continued with the Column throughout New Mexico and Texas, and was mustered out of service October 31, 1864, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. An entirely new Company E was organized in California and stationed at Drum Barracks from May until December of 1865. This company was mustered out as an organization, March 6, 1866.

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*Letter on file in State Archives, State Capitol.

**Record of California Men in the War of the Rebellion (1890)
page 147.

COMPANY F FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company F:

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland
Mustered in December 15, 1863
Mustered out by detachments August and September 1866

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John F. Staples, Captain	_____	Feb. 11, 1863
William F. R. Schindler, First Lieutenant	_____	Feb. 13, 1863
Thomas A. Stormbs, Captain	Feb. 10, 1863	April 24, 1863
A. B. Johnson, First Lieut	March 6, 1863	March 6, 1863
R. H. Orton, First Lieut.	_____	Jan. 21, 1864

Activities:

Company F was organized at Camp Merchant, Oakland, under the President's first call for troops in the War of the Rebellion. The company was not mustered into service until December 1863, but was active in subduing many bands of hostile Indians.

During the month of May 1864, Company F was included in a scouting expedition in search of hostiles. The command, under Colonel Davis, surprised a rancheria near Fort Bowie, Arizona, where they killed thirty-six Indians and wounded two. The troops seized \$660 in gold coins, some firearms, one thousand pounds of Mescal*, and a quantity of horse trappings, powder and powder arms.

In May of 1865 the company was again attached to an expedition. This expedition was under the supervision of Colonel "Kit" Carson, and was ordered to the Comanche country. Its duties were to build a fort on the road leading from Santa Fe to the States as a protection to passing emigrant trains, and to escort the trains through the parts most exposed to Indian depredations. The command consisted of three hundred and two officers and men. Lieutenant Orton of Company F was appointed Adjutant. A stone fort was built at a place called Cedar Bluffs in the section of Indian territory known as "No Man's Land", and was named Fort Nichols.

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*Mescal--a fermented drink made from the Century Plant.

COMPANY F FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY (CONTINUED)

Activities: (Continued)

On the fifteenth of June, while Company F was escorting a train from Fort Nichols to Fort Larnard, Kansas, it was attacked by about fifty mounted Comanche warriors. The attack was repulsed by the troops who followed the retreating savages for several miles, killing and wounding six of them. There was no loss to the troops although a Mexican herder was killed in the attack upon the train. Company F remained at Fort Nichols from May until October 1865, assisting in escorting all emigrant trains safely through that section of the country.

Company F was mustered out of service by detachments in August and September 1866, at Fort Sumner and Lake Pinos, New Mexico.

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COMPANY G FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company G:

Location: Camp Stanford, near Stockton

Mustered in June 13, 1863

Mustered out September 15, 1866

<u>Name</u>	<u>Commanding Officers</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Peter B. Whannell, Captain			Feb. 11, 1863
Benjamin F. Fox, First Lt.		March 16, 1863	March 16, 1863
Samuel A. Gorham, Captain		Oct. 8, 1863	Nov. 12, 1863
William R. Savage, First Lt.			April 24, 1865

Activities:

Company G was organized in response to the President's first call for volunteers in the War of the Rebellion. It was mustered into service June 12, 1863, at Camp Stanford, near Stockton. The corps joined the California Column on its march into New Mexico and Texas during the Fall of 1863.

~~In June of 1865, a detachment from Company G left Fort Sumner, New Mexico and Texas during the Fall of 1863.~~

In June of 1865, a detachment from Company G left Fort Sumner, New Mexico, in pursuit of escaped Navajo Indians, held captives on the Bosque Redondo Reservation in New Mexico. It was not until July that the troops located the Indians village, the result being a skirmish between the Navajo Indians and the troops. The company succeeded in capturing one thousand head of sheep, forty-seven horses, and destroyed the village. On this particular march the men traveled a distance of one thousand and twenty-five miles in forty-three days.

During April of 1866, a detachment of twenty-five men from Company G, under command of Captain Gorham, left on a scouting expedition. They were absent from Fort Sumner for twenty-five days, during which time the troops killed two hostiles, wounded four and held eight as prisoners. The distance traveled on this expedition was four hundred miles. These scouting expeditions took place in New Mexico where the California Column was stationed at that time. Company G remained with the Column until mustered out of service on September 15, 1866.

COMPANY H FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company H:

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland
Mustered in December 31, 1863
Mustered out September 20, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William L. Campbell, Captain	Feb. 10, 1863	Feb. 17, 1863
Louis F. Sanborn, First Lt.	_____	Feb. 17, 1863
Porter Haden, Captain	_____	July 27, 1864
Richard C. Vose, Captain	_____	Nov. 18, 1864
Louis F. Sanborn, Captain	_____	April 29, 1865
John Olliphant, First Lt.	_____	April 29, 1865

Activities:

Company H was organized in 1863 and joined with the California Column during the same year. The company was active in Indian scout duty throughout its term of enlistment. On June 5, 1864, a detachment of thirty-four men under command of Captain Campbell and Lieutenant Billings left Camp Miembres, New Mexico, on a scouting expedition in the Corralitas. They returned on the twenty-eighth having captured three Apache Indians. The company was ordered on June 30, 1864, to take post in Los Pimos, New Mexico. The following month a detachment of nine men under Lieutenant Billings encountered a band of Indians near San Andreas Pass. In the skirmish that followed there were ten Indians killed, and no casualties among the soldiers, although Private Abner Hull was slightly wounded.

Company H remained in New Mexico on Indian scouting expeditions and picket duty until mustered out of the service on September 20, 1866.

COMPANY I FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company I:

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland

Mustered in November 12, 1863

Mustered out May 22, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
David B. Akey, Captain	_____	Feb. 17, 1863
William B. Kennedy, First Lt.	_____	March 3, 1863
William B. Kennedy, Captain	_____	June 29, 1863
G. E. Genthner, First Lt.	_____	March 13, 1863
Gerome Stockwell, First Lt.	_____	July 23, 1864

Activities:

Company I was one of the twelve companies forming the First Regiment of Cavalry, answering the President's first call for troops in suppressing the Rebellion. The company was organized and mustered into service at Camp Merchant, Oakland, later joining the California Column in New Mexico. There is no record of the activities of this company except that it served with the Column until being mustered out on May 22, 1866.

COMPANY K FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company K:

Location: Camp Merchant, Oakland

Mustered in May 16, 1863

Mustered out August 17, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Robert S. Johnson, Captain	_____	Feb. 18, 1863
Charles S. Whitney, First Lt.	_____	March 6, 1863
Samuel A. Gorham, First Lt.	_____	Aug. 5, 1863
Sullivan Heath, First Lieut.	_____	Jan. 2, 1864
Benjamin F. Fox, Captain	_____	Feb. 28, 1865

Activities:

Company K was organized in response to the President's call for volunteers. It was mustered in at Camp Merchant, Oakland; and joined the California Column about April of 1864 in New Mexico. This company's history is complete, and there is little record of its activities. The company was stationed at various camps throughout New Mexico until mustered out August 17, 1866, near Albuquerque.

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*Captain Akey resigned June 24, 1863. He was never mustered in

COMPANY L FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Company L:

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland
Mustered in August 15, 1863
Mustered out June 28, 1866

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James Gorman, Captain	_____	Feb. 26, 1863
John L. Merriam, First Lt.	_____	March 11, 1863
John L. Merriam, Captain	_____	Dec. 4, 1863
Leonard Gardner, First Lt.	_____	Jan. 2, 1864
Alfred W. Norton, First Lt.	_____	April 29, 1865

Activities:

This company was organized at Camp Merchant, Oakland, and later sent to Tubac, Arizona Territory, where it was stationed until April 30, 1865. During September of 1864, Lieutenant Gardner was reprimanded by general orders from the War Department for addressing a letter to the State Department, charging the Quartermaster's Bureau on the Pacific Coast, in general terms, with fraud. A careful investigation by a military court determined that the accusations were without any foundation whatsoever.* From 1865 until April of the following year the company was stationed at Fort Bowie, Arizona Territory, where it was mustered out as an organization on June 28, 1866.

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*The Daily Alta of California, September 19, 1864.

COMPANY M FIRST REGIMENT OF CAVALRY

Location: Camp Merchant, near Lake Merritt, Oakland
Mustered in May 16, 1865
Mustered out September 30, 1866

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
G. F. Whitman, Captain	_____	March 6, 1863
R. C. Vose, First Lieut.	_____	March 9, 1863
A. H. French, Captain	_____	April 21, 1865
G. W. Arnold, First Lieut.	_____	Nov. 18, 1864
R. H. Orton, Captain*	_____	Aug. 14, 1865
James J. Billings, First Lt.	_____	Aug. 14, 1865

Activities:

Company M was the last company organized under the President's call for volunteers. It was mustered in at Camp Merchant, Oakland, and later joined the California Column in New Mexico.

The brevity of the company records indicates that the unit was stationed in New Mexico until September 30, 1866, at which time the company was mustered out as an organization.

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*Captain Orton remained in service until January 4, 1867, at which time he was mustered out of service as the last member of Company M, First Cavalry Regiment, in the California Volunteers.

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