

EMMET GUARD

Emmet Guard unattached, Third Brigade (formerly a Provisional Company of the Third Brigade\*)

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Stockton, San Joaquin County

Organized May 21, 1884\*\*

Redesignated July 22, 1885\*\*\*

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
J. J. Nunan, Captain	May 21, 1884	June 26, 1884
R. E. Murray, First Lieut.	May 21, 1884	June 26, 1884

Activities:

The Emmet Guard had been attached to the Third Brigade as a Provisional Company in 1879. The unit was not recognized as a part of the National Guard until May 21, 1884, when the company was mustered into the State Service as an unattached corps. The meeting was held in College Hall, Stockton and was opened with a speech by Captain Lehe of the Stockton Guard, who was appointed the official mustering officer. After the Secretary, R. E. Murray, was elected the meeting adjourned for a ten minute period to allow the new recruits to sign the roll. When the intermission was over, Captain Lehe administered the oath to the sixty-one new members.

The next order of business was the election of officers. J. J. Nunan as Captain and R. E. Murray as First Lieutenant were unanimously elected commanding officers. A committee then went to the new Captain's residence and notified him of his election to the Captaincy, escorting him back to the hall. During the absence of the committee, Captain Lehe outlined to the new

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\*Emmet Guard was organized as a Provisional Company of the Third Brigade during 1879.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 110.

\*\*\*Emmet Guard redesignated Company B, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade July 22, 1885. Adjutant General Report 1885-1886. General Order No. 18, page 70.

EMMET GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (continued)

members of the new unit the advantages connected with having the corps mustered in as a part of the Third Brigade. One of the more important features was that the location of the companies, Emmet and Stockton Guards in the same city would be the means of creating a friendly rivalry between the commands which would materially increase their efficiency to the State. Captain Lehe also had the foresight to realize that when the Emmet Guard was fully equipped and armed that a battalion organization would be formed, a Major selected and a corresponding staff appointed. If the battalion was organized, Captain Lehe would command a battalion instead of a company on parade days. In closing his remarks, Captain Lehe prevailed upon the new members to appear regularly for drill as an encouragement to the newly elected officers.

Captain Nunan at this time put in an appearance and was greeted with loud applause. After the applause had subsided, the Captain delivered a brief speech thanking the members for the appointment and stating that his aim would be to work for the advancement of the new company. Lieutenant R. E. Murray was the last to speak and in a few words expressed his appreciation for the confidence among the members that inspired his election. The activities of the evening closed with three cheers for the officers elected, the mustering officer and the Emmet and Stockton Guards.\*

Two months after entering the Service, the Emmet Guard was called for active duty in the Moquelemos Land Grant dispute in San Joaquin County. The Moquelemos War broke out July 8, 1884, when the Sheriff of San Joaquin County appealed to the military authorities for aid in executing writs of restitution relative to the Moquelemos Grant. An armed body of men had threatened resistance and the County authorities were not able to handle the situation. The Emmet Guard with fifty-four members, together with the Stockton Guard responded to the call issued from General Headquarters for assistance. The presence of the troops was effective and the anticipated resistance was averted without a shot being fired. However, as a precautionary measure

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\*Stockton Daily Independent, May 22, 1884, page 3, column 1.

EMMET GUARD (Continued)

Activities:(Continued)

The guards were kept on duty for a week and then were dismissed. Brigadier General James A. Shepherd, commander of the Third Brigade, highly commended the members of the two companies for the ready and cheerful manner in answering the call to duty. There was no evident inclination on the part of the men to shirk or offer excuses and they responded quickly to the alarm, despite the fact that they were called from their homes at midnight.\*

During the Moquelemos Grant controversy, the antiquated condition of the arms of Emmet Guard were brought to light. The guns in the company's possession consisted of old, condemned muzzle loaders. These were unfit for even drill purposes, as according to General Upton's tactics a differently formed gun was specified. A requisition approved by General James A. Shepherd, commander of the Third Brigade, was sent in for the new arms a short period after the Moquelemos Grant trouble. Accompanying this requisition was a report to Adjutant General Cosby in which General Shepherd referred to the condemned guns which the Emmet Guard was forced to go on duty with during the land dispute. A requisition was also sent in for new uniforms as the twenty-six dress uniforms had been supplied through private subscription during the previous years and were unsuitable for a company of the National Guard. The caps and blouses, which were supplied to the company at the time the uniforms were received, could be used as they met the necessary military requirements.

The Emmet Guard took part in all the parades required by law, namely: Independence, Admission, Washington's and Memorial Days throughout the year. The re-constitution of the company occurred in 1885. In accordance with General Order No. 18 issued July twenty-second of that year, this unit and two other unattached companies were formed into a battalion to be known as the Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade. The Emmet Guard was redesignated as Company B, Sixth Infantry Battalion.\*\*

\*Adjutant General Report 1883-1884, page 110.  
For further particulars of the Moquelemos War refer to the History of Stockton Guard, Unattached Third Brigade.

\*\*Adjutant General Report 1885-1886, page 70. page 8, column 1.