

History of the Eureka Rangers, California Militia 1864-1866

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 16 January 2015

613

(Continued)

EUREKA RANGERS

Activities: (Continued)
Eureka Rangers, Company D, Fifth Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 7
Location: Moore's Flat, Nevada County.
Mustered in October 15, 1864
Mustered out August 12, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry Atwater, Captain	Oct. 15, 1864	Nov. 2, 1864
Adam S. Wall, First Lieut.	Oct. 15, 1864	Nov. 2, 1864
H. G. Rollins, Captain	Nov. 22, 1865	Dec. 11, 1865
John H. Hickey, First Lieut.	Nov. 22, 1865	Dec. 11, 1865

Activities:

Moore's Flat, a Eureka Township in Nevada County, derived its name from H. M. Moore, who settled there in 1851, when he built his home and store immediately upon arrival from his eastern home.* Settlements in this locality were made by those interested in the mining and lumber activities, constituting a rather transient population.

During the War of the Rebellion many militia companies were formed by volunteers who desired to be ready for service if their country needed them. The residents of Moore's Flat gave their services and enrolled themselves in a volunteer military company. The members presented their petition to the Honorable A. N. Niles, Nevada County Judge. Under the Act of April 24, 1862, the Judge issued an order on September 8, 1864, to appoint William M. Beck as Inspector to open the book for the enrolling of the volunteer's names and to conduct the organization meeting. Legal notice of this action and the time and place of the meeting was published in the Nevada Transcript on October fourth of that year. The meeting which was called to order in the office of John Caldwell, adjoined to the Hall of D. Landes where the final organization transpired. Constitution and By-Laws were drawn up, followed by the election of officers. Henry Atwater was elected Captain and Adam S. Wall was elected First Lieutenant of the newly organized company designated as the Eureka Rangers.

-000-

*History of Nevada County, Thompson & West, Oakland, 1880,
page 63.

ROBERT H. HIGGINS
ET3

EUREKA RANGERS (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

The Constitution of the Rangers consisted of Twelve Articles and the "Oath" that is quoted as follows:

"OATH"

I do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that I will support and defend as paramount to the Constitution of any State, the Constitution of the United States against all enemies either foreign or domestic. That I will yield true obedience and loyalty to the constituted authority of our National Government, and will to the utmost of my ability uphold and sustain the President of the United States in ALL ACTS having for their object the suppression of the existing Rebellion, and this oath I take without hesitation or mental reservation whatever, so help me God."

Immediately upon organization Captain Atwater requisitioned the Adjutant General's Office for sixty stand of arms expecting to have an increase in numbers by Spring. A Bond of \$4,000 was approved by the County Judge, and forty stand of arms were issued to the Captain for his command.

Lieutenant Wall tendered his resignation in August of 1865, which was accepted and the office of First Lieutenant was filled at the regular annual election held, November 29, 1865. H. G. Rollins was elected to fill the Captaincy upon the expiration of Captain Atwater's term and John H. Hickey was the newly elected First Lieutenant.

There are no records to show the activities of the Rangers, but considering the fact that arms were issued to them, it is assumed that the corps participated in the routine drills and parades as required in an endeavor to perfect themselves for active military service. Captain Atwater remarked on his Muster Roll of September twenty-second "That six men from his company had enlisted in the Infantry Service of the United States, when Lieutenant Kendall of Company I, Seventh Infantry Regiment recruited the company for active service". This Muster Roll lists a membership of thirty-nine men and officers, and the mustering out roll lists fifty-seven men and officers. After two years of existence the Eureka Rangers were mustered out on August 12, 1866, under the new Military Law that was enacted to reduce the militia forces of unnecessary companies, thereby curtailing the military expenses of the State.