

Forsyth Guard, Unattached, Third Brigade

Reference: Adjutant General's Files

Location: Fresno, Fresno County

Organized June 15, 1885*

Redesignated July 22, 1885**

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
William W. Muller, Captain	June 15, 1885	June 30, 1885
Stuart S. Wright, First Lieut.	June 15, 1885	June 30, 1885

Activities:

In accordance with the wishes of the citizens of Fresno, who were desirous of organizing a militia company, Adjutant General George B. Cosby, on May 29, 1885, directed Lieutenant Colonel William Forsyth to take the necessary steps involved in the routine procedure. Thereupon Colonel Forsyth arranged that a meeting be held at the Donahoo Hall, Fresno, at eight o'clock on June fifteenth.

In compliance with this order a meeting was called and Captain Eugene Lehe of the Stockton Guard was appointed Secretary. Colonel Forsyth presided at the meeting and after the required number of signatures were obtained, the company of seventy men took the oath and were sworn in as a militia company of the National Guard. The newly organized unit adopted the name of Forsyth Guard in honor of their mustering officer. By a majority of votes, W. W. Muller was elected Captain and Stuart S. Wright elected First Lieutenant of the new company. In concluding the business of the meeting, a committee was appointed to procure uniforms for the men and a proposal was made that all members prepare themselves for the purpose of joining the State Encampment to be held at Santa Cruz in August.*** The following day the newly elected officers appeared before Major Gibson and Captain Lehe, the Board Examiners for the Third Brigade, and passed a very creditable examination.

.oOo.

*Forsyth Guard, according to the organization papers and a newspaper item, was organized June 15, 1885. However, the Adjutant General's Report for 1885, page 6, records the date of organization as June 4, 1885.

**Forsyth Guard redesignated Company C, Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade, July 22, 1885.

Adjutant General Report, 1885-1886, Special Order No. 18, page 70.

***Stockton Daily Independent, June 18, 1885, page 3, columns 1, 2.

FORSYTH GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Due to the fact that this company was in existence for only one month prior to being reconstituted, the only activity recorded is the Fourth of July parade held at Fresno. There were sixty-five members participating in the celebration and had there not been a shortage of arms and accoutrements, the full company of seventy men would have been represented. As a result, Captain Muller sent in a requisition on July eleventh, for more rifles, belts and cartridge boxes and forwarded a \$2000 bond as requested by Adjutant General Cosby.

An increase in the number of companies of the National Guard of California was granted through an act of the Legislature during the year of 1885, and in accordance with this additional appropriation, the Sixth Infantry Battalion, consisting of three companies, was organized. The Forsyth Guard was on July 22, 1885, redesignated as Company C of the Sixth Infantry Battalion, Third Brigade.*

The Emmet Guard had been attached to the Third Brigade as a Provisional Company in 1879. The unit was not reconstituted as a part of the National Guard until May 11, 1884, when the company was mustered into the service as an unattached corps. The meeting was held in college hall, Stockton and was opened with a speech by Captain Lehe of the Emmet Guard, who was appointed the official mustering officer. After the ceremony, B. E. Murray, who elected by the meeting to be the adjutant for a one hour period to allow the new recruits to sign the roll. When the intermission was over, Captain Lehe administered the oath to the sixty-two new members.

The next order of business was the election of officers. J. J. Nolan as Captain and B. 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

*Emmet Guard was organized as a Provisional Company of the
*Adjutant General Report, 1885-1886.
General Order No. 18, page 70.
**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.