

# **History of the Governor's Guard, California Militia 1865-1866**

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

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HIBERNIA GREENS

Hibernia Greens, \* unattached, Second Brigade  
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 2  
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County  
Mustered in May 17, 1865  
Mustered out GOVERNOR'S GUARD

Governor's Guard, unattached, Second Brigade  
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 2  
Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County  
Mustered in April 1865  
Mustered out July 13, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Joshua S. Henshaw, Captain	Mar. 29, 1865	April 5, 1865
John E. Purdy, First Lieut.	Mar. 29, 1865	April 5, 1865

Activities:

The Governor's Guard, unattached, was organized in San Francisco, March 30, 1865, with a membership of forty-six persons. The elected officers were Joshua S. Henshaw, Captain and John E. Purdy, First Lieutenant. A Bond of \$2000.00 was posted for the arms and accoutrements, and the forty stand of arms were received April seventeenth.

Captain Henshaw was granted five months leave of absence beginning May twenty-third as urgent business required his attention in the East. This action on the part of the Captain was detrimental to the interests of the newly organized company, and terminated in the resolution to disband the corps, which resolution was adopted at a special meeting held January 25, 1866. However, the Governor's Guard was not mustered out until July twelfth in accordance with the Military Law of that year. This ruling eliminated all unnecessary companies with reference to defense locations and also companies in the interior, which would have difficulty maintaining their organizations up to the stringent requirements of the law.

\*It is interesting to note that all the names of members appearing on the Muster Rolls were of Irish extraction which indicated the company took their title of Hibernia Greens seriously, Hibernia meaning native son of Ireland.