History of the Hooker Guard, California
Militia/National Guard of California
1863-1868

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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Hooker Guard, unattached, Fourth Brigade
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 7
Location: Oregon House, Yuba County
Mustered in May 17, 1863
Mustered out July 23, 1866

Commanding Officers

Name                      Rank       Commission
Simon D. Webb, Captain    May 17, 1863  June 13, 1863
T. H. Owen, First Lieut.  May 17, 1863  June 13, 1863

Simon D. Webb, Captain
(Re-elected 1864)
(Resigned Oct. 26, 1864)
A. H. Julian, Captain    Oct. 21, 1864  Nov. 10, 1864
G. H. Leland, First Lieut. Mar. 18, 1864  April 9, 1864
L. Myers, Captain        April 3, 1865  April 29, 1865
T. E. Cook, First Lieut.  April 23, 1865  April 29, 1865

Activities:

The Hooker Guard of Oregon House, Yuba County, was organized May 17, 1863. The commanding officers elected were Simon D. Webb, Captain and T. H. Owen, First Lieutenant. Brigadier-General Collins advised General Kibbe, June eighth by letter that the membership numbering fifty men were of sterling character and in sympathy with the Union. He recommended the commissions be forwarded to the officers immediately.

Arms and accoutrements were shipped September fifteenth by steamer, and evidently were received in time for the encampment held later in September of that year. Due to the misplacement of the original Muster Roll, only twenty-nine uniforms were received by the company on April 8, 1864, which greatly inconvenienced the unit which had a membership of fifty-seven. There was a dispute between the county and company as to who was responsible for the expenses incurred during the unit's encampment. The county claimed they were not liable until the corps arms were received, but General Kibbe stated that the county had to bear the expense from the date that the officers were commissioned.
Although the Hooker Guard was a patriotic and well officered unit, with the resignation of Captain Webb on October twenty-sixth, who joined the United States Service, the ranks dwindled rapidly and members lost interest in company drills and military activities. On the Muster Roll March 1865, there appears only thirty-three names which put the corps below the required minimum strength of forty-seven, and consequently the unit was not entitled to its annual company allowance.

After the War of the Rebellion it was not necessary to maintain such a large militia, and the Military Law of 1866 was passed, providing for a Board of Location and Organization to muster out companies which due to location were unnecessary for defense purpose and others unable to maintain their organizations up to the stringent requirements of the law. This ruling materially reducing the militia was an economy measure. The Hooker Guard was mustered out July 23, 1866, for non-compliance with the law.