

History of the Jackson Dragoons, California Militia/National Guard of California 1863-1881

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JACKSON DRAGOONS

Jackson Dragoons, Company C, First Cavalry Battalion, Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 6, File 5

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Commission

Mustered in March 16, 1863

Mustered out

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Michael Fennell, Captain (Re-elected Aug. 7, 1863)	Lieut. Mar. 16, 1863	May 16, 1863
John M. Peterson, First Lieut.	Mar. 16, 1863	May 16, 1863
Patrick R. O'Brien, First Lieut.	Dec. 22, 1863	Jan. 5, 1864
John M. Peterson, Captain (Expelled Feb. 1865)	June 10, 1864	June 22, 1864
M. Miles, First Lieut.	June 10, 1864	June 22, 1864
Patrick O'Brien, Captain	Mar. 7, 1865	Mar. 14, 1865
M. Miles, First Lieut. (Re-elected Mar. 7, 1865)		
Patrick O'Brien, Captain (Re-elected April 2, 1866)		
M. Miles, First Lieut. (Re-elected April 2, 1866)		
Patrick O'Brien, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 7, 1867) (Promoted to Major of the Battalion, July 24, 1868)		
John P. Rafferty, First Lieut.	Mar. 7, 1867	April 5, 1867
John P. Rafferty, Captain	Sept. 21, 1868	Sept. 25, 1868
Joseph O'Conner, First Lieut.	Sept. 21, 1868	Sept. 25, 1868
John P. Rafferty, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 7, 1869)		
Hugh Dougherty, First Lieut.	Jan. 7, 1869	Jan. 30, 1869
Michael Greany, Captain	Jan. 12, 1871	Jan. 20, 1871
Hugh Dougherty, First Lieut. (Re-elected Jan. 12, 1871)		
Michael Greany, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 10, 1873)		
Edward McPhillips, First Lieut.	Jan. 10, 1873	Jan. 22, 1873
Michael Greany, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 7, 1875)		
Edward McPhillips, First Lieut. (Re-elected Jan. 7, 1875)		

Occupation: San Francisco, San Francisco County
 Reference: Dept Office File, Box 2, File 2
 Jackson Dragoons, Company C, First Cavalry Brigade, Second Brigade

JACKSON DRAGOONS (Continued)

JACKSON DRAGOONS (Continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Michael Greany, Captain (Re-elected July 5, 1877)		
Patrick F. McGrath, First Lieut.	July 5, 1877	Aug. 30, 1877
Michael Greany, Captain (Re-elected Aug. 7, 1879)		
Patrick F. McGrath, First Lieut. (Re-elected Aug. 7, 1879)		

Activities:

The Jackson Dragoons, a cavalry company, was organized in San Francisco on the sixteenth of March 1863, and was mustered into the State service the same date and attached to the First Regiment of Cavalry, Second Brigade.

Although but recently organized and not fully equipped, the company attended the Second Brigade Encampment at Camp Allen, Alameda County in October 1863. This Camp of Instruction was the largest encampment held during that year.

The Dragoons at once became active in drill and as soon as their arms and equipment were received devoted much time and energy to target practice, becoming very proficient and turning in some creditable scores. However, the company was handicapped in drill and maneuvers by reason of the fact that the cavalry furnished their own horses and as a majority of these were hired, it was extremely difficult to secure horses trained in drill and parade work. The members did their best with the equipment available and were highly commended by their superior officers for the creditable showing they made when on parade or acting as escort.

Shortly after the annual election in June 1864, it became evident that the newly elected Captain, who had served as First Lieutenant since the company was organized, was not particularly interested in the welfare of the unit as he did not drill the company more than four times during the year, and also failed to turn in to the company's treasury the \$190.00 of the company's money which he had in his possession. These matters were duly reported to the military authorities and the Captain was charged with neglect of duty and embezzlement of company funds. The military authorities did not see fit to order a court martial in the case, believing that it would tend to make a hero of the Captain, and advised the company to expel him from the ranks. This action was taken in February 1865, approved by the commanding officers of the State,

JACKSON DRAGOONS (Continued)

Activities:

and Captain Peterson's commission was revoked March 6, 1865.*

Under the revised Military Laws of 1866 the Jackson Dragoons reorganized and on the twenty-ninth of August 1866, were mustered in as a unit of the National Guard of California, and attached to the First Cavalry Battalion, Second Brigade.

The succeeding years until 1875 were devoted to drill and target practice and parades. On May 20, 21 and 22, 1875, the troops of the Second Brigade held an Encampment at San Rafael and on that occasion were reviewed by the Governor, Major Generals and several prominent military authorities attached to the United States Army.

With other troops of the Second Brigade, the Jackson Dragoons were under arms in December 1876, when rioting was feared in San Francisco due to anti-Chinese demonstrations. Also in July and November 1877 and in January 1878, the men were placed under arms. However, the nature of the service rendered on those occasions was police duty only.

On November 5, 1877, the Dragoons paraded in San Francisco for the Creedmoor Team when the latter returned triumphant from its Eastern trip. On January 7, 1878, the company paraded for inspection by a joint Committee on Military Affairs of the State Legislature and on February 22, 1878 and February 22 of the following year, paraded for inspection and review by the Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard of California. In September 1878 a three day Encampment of troops of the Second Brigade was held at Camp Irwin near the State Fair Grounds at Sacramento. The State Agricultural Society and the citizens of Sacramento offered prizes to companies competing in drill and target shooting on the Fair Grounds as an attraction during the Fair. On very short notice and without intention of competing for prizes the Jackson Dragoons were on hand and were honored by being chosen to act as escort to the Governor during the celebration.

At the Legislative Session of 1880, the State Legislature enacted new Military laws, which necessitated a reorganization of the military force of the State, one of the resulting regulations being that in the future each company should be known and designated by letter only. As a unit the Jackson Dragoons became Company C, and for a continuation of this company's activities refer to Company C, First Cavalry Battalion, Second Brigade, National Guard of California.

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*Extensive correspondence between H. McGinn, Secretary of the Jackson Dragoons, Colonel C. L. Taylor, 1st Reg. of Cavalry and the Adjutant General's Office containing charges against Capt. Peterson and the resolution expelling him from the company in February 1865, on file Adjutant General's Office.