

# **History of the Lincoln and Virginia Union Guard, California Militia 1863-1866**

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LINCOLN AND VIRGINIA UNION GUARD

Lincoln and Virginia Union Guard, Company D, First Infantry Battalion,

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 6

Location: Lincoln, Placer County.

Mustered in November 7, 1863

Mustered out July 31, 1866

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
F. A. Sprague, Captain	Nov. 7, 1863	Nov. 17, 1863
O. B. Allen, First Lieutenant	Nov. 7, 1863	Nov. 17, 1863
Hollis Newton, Captain	Nov. 12, 1864	Nov. 24, 1864
L. Heath, First Lieutenant	Nov. 12, 1864	Nov. 24, 1864
Asa I. W. Palmer, Captain	Jan. 27, 1866	Feb. 12, 1866
Charles L. Butler, First Lieut.	Jan. 22, 1866	Feb. 12, 1866

Activities: on, First Lieut.

Jan. 9, 1869

Jan. 16, 1869

A group of loyal citizens of Lincoln desired to raise an independent military company. Therefore, on November 7, 1863, a meeting was held at which time a company was formed and adopted the name of the Lincoln and Virginia Union Guard. An election of officers was also held and F. A. Sprague was elected Captain and O. B. Allen, First Lieutenant.

As there were many independent companies forming during that period it was difficult to procure arms and accoutrements for all. Owing to that existing situation the Lincoln and Virginia Guard did not receive their arms until October of 1864, nearly a year after being organized.

The only records on file pertaining to the company were those concerned with the elections of officers. An annual election was held at Lincoln on November 12, 1864, for the purpose of electing new officers due to the expiration of terms of those presiding. Hollis Newton was elected Captain and L. Heath, First Lieutenant for the ensuing year. However, there are no records indicating what officers were in command of the company during 1865, and it is assumed the previous officers were re-elected. On January 5, 1866, another election was held and placed Asa Palmer as Captain and Charles L. Butler as First Lieutenant. These men held their respective ranks for only a short time as the company was mustered out of service on July 31, 1866, in pursuant to the Military Law of that year which reduced the number of military companies throughout the State.