

History of the Lyon Light Infantry, California Militia/National Guard of California 1863-1868

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Lyon Light Infantry, Company C, Fifth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 2.

Location: Shasta, Shasta County

and Mustered in May 28, 1863

The Mustered out June 13, 1868

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Samuel Francis, Captain	May 28, 1863	June 12, 1863
John E. Dent, First Lieut.	May 28, 1863	June 12, 1863
Samuel Francis, Captain (Re-elected 1864)		
John H. Lee, First Lieut.	March 12, 1864	April 9, 1864
Alexander DeLong, Captain	March 4, 1865	April 1, 1865
Jacob Hudson, First Lieut.	March 4, 1865	April 1, 1865
William E. Hopping, Captain	Sept. 6, 1866	Sept. 19, 1866
H. J. Shurtleff, First Lieut.	Sept. 6, 1866	Sept. 19, 1866
William E. Hopping, Captain (Re-elected 1867)		
Ora S. Holton, First Lieut.	Nov. 30, 1867	Feb. 6, 1868

Activities:

The military company known as Lyon Light Infantry was organized at the town of Shasta, in Shasta County, on May 28, 1863. The entire organization and selection of officers was in accordance with the laws governing the formation of military companies of the State. Samuel Francis was elected Captain of the company and John E. Dent, First Lieutenant. On August nineteenth, a requisition was sent to the Adjutant General for arms and accoutrements for fifty-nine men including officers, which was approved. Captain Francis, with three other reputable citizens of the town of Shasta, furnished a Bond for the sum of \$2,130, as security for the arms and other supplies ordered.

Activities: (Continued)

Captain Francis was interested in having his company uniformed and furnished with the necessary equipment, as soon as possible. The Captain communicated with the Adjutant General in regard to the cost of uniforms and accoutrements. He was also anxious that his company be furnished hats although the men already possessed caps. A reply was received from Headquarters informing the Captain that one set of equipment was twenty dollars and another five dollars, the uniforms to cost eight to ten dollars above the allowance furnished, and that the officers' side arms would come to twenty dollars and up, according to the quality supplied. Soon after this inquiry was made the unit received their arms consisting of bayonets and rifles, and their regulation uniforms.

There is little recorded of the activities of this company on file, with the exception of the required drills and public military appearances. During an early period in the existence of the Lyon Light Infantry, the townspeople of Shasta, to show their pride and esteem for the company, presented the corps with a large silk flag. The company, with other units, participated in the Encampment held by the Fifth Brigade on November 3, 1863, at Chico, Butte County, with Captain Samuel Francis in command. The Encampment site was known as Camp Ellis. For the purpose of systematic instruction during the Camp, the companies attending were temporarily organized into a Battalion. Major John Hill was appointed to act as Colonel and instructed the men in battalion drill. The Encampment was successful and the men of the Fifth Brigade were commended by the Adjutant General for their splendid support. Enroute from Camp Ellis to Shasta, the Lyon Light Infantry lost some of their equipment, and Captain Francis communicated with the Adjutant General in reference to this situation, as he was concerned with the fact whether Headquarters would hold his company responsible for the loss sustained, or if the Bond would hold as a satisfactory guarantee.

The Lyon Light Infantry was one of the military companies located in the interior part of the State, and in compliance with the Military Law of 1868, passed by the State Legislature, as an economy measure, ordering the reduction of military units in the remote sections of the State, this company was mustered out of service May 23, 1868.

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