

History of the Maine Prairie Rifles, California Militia/National Guard of California 1863-1868

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Mustered out June 22, 1863
 Mustered in September 1, 1863
 Location: Sacramento, Sacramento County
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 7
 Baker, Charles, Company H, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Brigade

MAINE PRAIRIE RIFLES

National Guard Company D, Second Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade
 Maine Prairie Rifles, Unattached, Second Brigade
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 7
 Location: Maine Prairie, Solano County
 Mustered in September 19, 1863
 Mustered out January 23, 1868

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Albert Burnett, Captain	Sept. 19, 1863	Oct. 20, 1863
J. R. Lowe, First Lieut.	Sept. 19, 1863	Oct. 20, 1863
Albert Burnett, Captain (Reelected 1864)	_____	_____
S. A. Hopkins, First Lieut.	Nov. 12, 1864	Nov. 24, 1864
Albert, Burnett, Captain (Reelected Nov. 3, 1866)	_____	_____
S. A. Hopkins, First Lieut. (Reelected Nov. 3, 1866)	_____	_____
Albert Burnett, Captain (Reelected 1867)	_____	_____
William S. Dryden, First Lieut.	Sept. 24, 1867	Nov. 25, 1867

Activities:

The Maine Prairie Rifles was organized at Maine Prairie, Solano County September 9, 1863, with a membership of sixty-eight. The unit was armed with muskets. Captain Albert Burnett was elected chief commanding officer and retained the position throughout the company's five years of duration. As there is no apparent reason for the unit's organization, it is assumed it was organized for social purposes. However, the Maine Prairie Rifles were one of the companies re-organized under the Military Law of 1866. It was mustered into the National Guard of California as an unattached company November third of that year, and an election of officers took place on that date.

Under the Military Law of May, 1868, the number of companies in the State were reduced, especially the units of the interior mining towns and others deemed unnecessary for public good. Consequently the Maine Prairie Rifles were ordered disbanded and mustered out of service January 23, 1869, by Special Order No. 2, for non-compliance with the Law. Major Hill was the mustering out officer and the arms and accoutrements of the corps were left in charge of Captain Burnett, subject to the laws of the Adjutant General.*

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*Adjutant General Report 1867-1869, page 9 and 132.