

History of the McClelland Guard (Excelsior Guard), California Militia/National Guard of California 1862-1868

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MCCLELLAND GUARD

(EXCELSIOR GUARD)

Activities: (Continued)

MCClelland Guard, Company G, First Artillery Regiment, Second Brigade
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 3
 Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County
 Mustered in December 27, 1862
 Mustered out July 18, 1868

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
James W. Wilkinson, Captain	Dec. 27, 1862	Jan. 2, 1863
Horace A. Russell, First Lieut. (Resigned Mar. 25, 1863)	Dec. 27, 1862	Dec. 31, 1862
John D'Arcy, First Lieut.	Mar. 28, 1863	Mar. 28, 1863
James W. Wilkinson, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 26, 1863)		
Robert G. Gilmore, First Lieut.	Dec. 26, 1863	Jan. 5, 1864
James W. Wilkinson, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 20, 1864)		
Robert G. Gilmore, First Lieut. (Re-elected Dec. 20, 1864) (Promoted)*		
Rodger Robinette, First Lieut.	April 25, 1865	May 20, 1865
James W. Wilkinson, Captain (Re-elected Dec. 22, 1865)		
Thomas Sawyer, First Lieut.	Dec. 22, 1865	Jan. 3, 1866
James W. Wilkinson, Captain (Re-elected Feb. 1, 1867)		
John Kean, First Lieut. (Resigned Jan. 4, 1868)	Dec. 21, 1866	Jan. 12, 1867
Michael J. Donovan, First Lieut.	April 3, 1868	June 4, 1868

Activities:

On December 30, 1862, County Judge M. C. Blake ordered Colonel J. W. McKenzie to meet with a group of men at the Police Court Room in the City Hall, San Francisco, to open a book to receive the names of men ranging in ages from eighteen to forty-five

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*Lieutenant Robert G. Gilmore promoted to Captain of Eureka Guard, San Francisco, April 1865.

**Adjutant General Report 1867-1868, Special Order No. 15, page 163.

McCLELLAND GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

years, and subject to military duty, who desired to form a volunteer military company. This unit was duly formed under the Militia Laws of the State of California with fifty-four members enrolled and was called the McClelland Guard. Captain James W. Wilkinson and Lieutenant Horace A. Russell were elected as commanding officers.

A Bond for three thousand dollars was posted with the County Judge M. C. Blake of San Francisco, and fifty-five stand of arms and equipment was ordered by Captain J. W. Wilkinson, but due to a shortage of arms and equipment at that time they were unable to secure any. The company continued under this disadvantage, but finally received a set of arms that they were able to use. The unit became well disciplined in their drills and in the latter part of 1863 they exchanged their old arms and equipment for new.

In a letter from Captain Wilkinson to Colonel J. W. McKenzie the Captain stated that a meeting had been held December 7, 1865, when it was unanimously resolved to change the name of the company from the McClelland Guard to that of Excelsior Guard.* Aside from annual and special drills and parades, there were no further activities recorded concerning the Excelsior Guard.

Due to mutinous, disobedient and disorderly conduct, and for non-compliance with the State Militia Laws the Company was disbanded and mustered out of the State Service, July 18, 1868.**

organization was held in the Golden Gate Saloon on Saturday evening, January 3, 1863. After the election of officers a ballot was taken to name the company and the title selected was the Yankee Jim Rifles. The first annual election following the organization of the volunteer company was on -oOo- "To be held Saturday, December 26, 1863, six o'clock P. M. at the Saloon of M. B. Tubbs". Captain Morsman was re-elected commanding officer and J. C. Parsons was elected First Lieutenant at this meeting.

Following the organization of the Guard a requisition for arms was filed but due to the fact that the State's supply of new arms was low at that time, Adjutant-General William C. Kibbe issued instructions to Captain Davison of the Fourth Brigade to turn over the arms of the former Shield's Guard to the new company. These arms were apparently not in the best of condition as they were ordered to be turned in for exchange of new equipment. On September 1863

*Letter dated December 22, 1866, to Colonel J. W. McKenzie from James W. Wilkinson, on file Adjutant General's Office.

**Adjutant General Report 1867-1869, Special Order No. 15, page 163.