

# **History of the Minnesota Guard, California Militia 1863-1866**

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MINNESOTA GUARD

Minnesota Guard, Company C, First Division, Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 6, File 3

Location: Minnesota City, Sierra County

Mustered in October 10, 1863

Mustered out August 15, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
John Lohman, Captain	Oct. 10, 1863	Nov. 7, 1863
A. J. Brown, First Lieutenant	Oct. 10, 1863	Nov. 7, 1863
Calvin McClain, Captain	Oct. 31, 1864	Nov. 23, 1864
A. J. Brown, First Lieutenant (Re-elected 1864)		

Activities:

A sufficient number of residents of Sierra County had subscribed to a call for the organization of a volunteer militia to be stationed at Minnesota City. Therefore, S. B. Davidson, County Judge, appointed M. A. Singleton as the enrolling officer and the Judge also authorized Mr. Singleton to act as Inspector and to preside at the election to be held on the night of organization, Saturday, October 10, 1863, at six o'clock P. M. The volunteer company thus organized was designated as the Minnesota Guard. At this meeting John Lohman was elected Captain and A. J. Brown was elected First Lieutenant. A year later the annual election was held on October 31, 1864, and Calvin McClain was elected to the Captaincy and A. J. Brown was re-elected First Lieutenant. It is assumed this company was organized for protection against an outbreak by hostile Indians which infested that vicinity although there are no records available to substantiate this assumption.

Requisition was made for arms and accoutrements shortly after the organization of the company. On the twenty-first of January 1864, the Adjutant-General informed Captain Lohman that arms were expected to arrive at the Arsenal soon, and distribution upon the receipt of them would be made as soon as possible. The Adjutant-General also stated that an Act was pending before the Legislature which was expected to be passed, relative to providing uniforms for the State Militia. Forty stand of arms were received by the company on March 19, 1864, and although Major Day communicated with the General on June eleventh, requesting General Kibbe to have the company's requisition for uniforms filled in time so as to enable the Guard to participate in the Fourth of July (1864) Celebration to be held at Downieville, the uniforms were not received until the fifth of October of that year.

Activities: (Continued)

For Captain Lohman had difficulty with the Junior Second Lieutenant, W. H. Clark, who either neglected to qualify or refused to attend to the duties of his office. On April 23, 1864, Brigadier-General Collins reported the matter to the Adjutant-General and upon receipt of the report Governor Low revoked the commission of Lieutenant Clark, thereupon a new election was held and James Bovee was elected Junior Second Lieutenant.

The four military companies that were organized in Sierra County desired to combine themselves into one unit, believing that a battalion would give them greater stability and aid them to maintain the required membership as designated by the State. The four units combining into this formation were: National Guard Company A, Forest Rifles Company B, Minnesota Guard Company C, and the Alleghany Guard Company D. Upon the completion of the organization of the battalion, the representatives voted to name it the Third Sierra Battalion and elected W. L. Day as Major of the same. After the Minnesota Guard was armed it had every advantage to carry on the routine drills and to participate in the Battalion Encampments ordered by Major Day. The stringent requirements of the Militia Law of 1866, made it difficult for many of the interior settlements to maintain their full quota of membership as the population in these districts were transient in nature. Therefore, under the Military Law of 1866, the Minnesota Guard Company C was mustered out October 10, 1866, with the general reduction of militia forces.

On October 10, 1866, at seven o'clock P. M. a meeting was held in the home of John Williams, Ione City, the necessary number of volunteers enrolled and the election of officers was immediately taken up, Walter Dennis was elected Captain and Leroy Chamberlain, First Lieutenant. It appears there was disappointment and much jealousy concerning the result of the election and the company did not function smoothly. Commissions were at first refused the officers of this company as there was an error in the number of recruits forwarded on the Muster Roll to Headquarters. However, when the corrected roll was sent -000- containing the required number of members, the commissions were issued. On November 25, 1866, a requisition for arms and equipment was sent to George S. Evans, the Adjutant-General and approved by Governor Leland Stanford. On October 19, 1864, a Bond for the sum of \$1,837.50 was furnished by three prominent citizens of Ione as security for equipment received by the Ione City Guard.

This organization did not operate with harmony as many of their number would not co-operate or attend drills, and endeavored to disrupt rather than support the best interests of the company. There is nothing in the records to indicate this company saw