

History of the Mokelumne Hill Rifles, California Militia 1863-1866

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MOKELUMNE HILL RIFLES

Activities: (Continued)

Mokelumne Hill Rifles, Unattached, Third Brigade
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 4
Location: Mokelumne Hill, Calaveras County
Mustered in August 21, 1863
Mustered out August 4, 1866

\$2.50
.50
.25

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
J. C. Gebhardt, Captain	Aug. 21, 1863	Aug. 29, 1863
D. L. Hopkins, First Lieut.	Aug. 21, 1863	Aug. 29, 1863
D. L. Hopkins, Captain	Mar. 19, 1864	April 9, 1864
Levi N. Tower, First Lieut.	Mar. 19, 1864	April 9, 1864
D. L. Hopkins, Captain (Re-elected 1865)		
Charles W. Patterson, First Lieut.	Jan. 25, 1865	Feb. 28, 1865
D. L. Hopkins, Captain (Re-elected 1866)		
Charles W. Patterson, First Lieut. (Re-elected 1865) ✓		

Activities:

The Mokelumne Hill Rifles, Mokelumne, Calaveras County, was organized August 21, 1863, as an Infantry company with fifty members on the Roll. The officers elected were J. C. Gebhardt, Captain, and D. L. Hopkins, First Lieutenant. From the Preamble of the company's Constitution and By-Laws which read as follows:*

"We the undersigned agree to form ourselves into a military company in accordance with the laws of this State and of the United States, and for the better government thereof, do adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws, to the support of which we mutually pledge ourselves."

It is evident the aim of the company was to establish a unit which would rank second to none in military efficiency and progress. An interesting article in the parliamentary procedure of the company whereby members were required to pay strict adherence to

*Constitution and By-Laws of Mokelumne Hill Rifles, page 15, Article I, on file Adjutant General's Office.

**Adjutant General Report, 1865-1867, page 7.
*Constitution and By-Laws of the Mokelumne Hill Rifles, page 1, on file Adjutant General's Office.

MOKELUMNE HILL RIFLES (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

the rules or be punished by fines as herein specified is quoted as follows:*

1. Absence from Parade	\$2.50
2. Absence from Company Drill	.50
3. Absence from Squad Drill	.25
4. Neglect to appear on duty properly equipped	.50
5. Talking, laughing or whispering in the ranks.	1.00
6. Absence from Monthly Meeting	.50
7. Absence from Special Meeting	.25
8. Absence from First Roll Call	.12½
9. Leaving business meeting without leave of presiding officer.	.50
10. Neglect of duty by a commissioned officer	5.00
11. Neglect of duty by a non-commissioned or Civic officer.	2.50
12. Neglect of duty by any other member in the immediate service of the company.	1.00

The requisition for arms was approved and a Bond of \$2,500 posted for the company's arms and accoutrements which they received August 31, 1863. Another Bond for \$2,500 was filed and the unit received their uniforms April 5, 1864. The corps attended drills and target practice regularly and became a well officered and efficient company.

The Mokelumne Hill Rifles had organized when the citizens of Calaveras still had a vivid memory of past Indian depredations, and still feared fresh uprisings. Also the transient foreign population following the mining activities, whose lawlessness was just cause for alarm, required military protection to aid the civil authorities in maintaining law and order.

However, as time passed, these conditions were satisfactorily taken care of and the company existed for social reasons only. As a result this efficient corps, the Mokelumne Hill Rifles, was ordered disbanded and mustered out of service, August 4, 1866, under the Military Law of that year, which recommended that companies located in the small interior mining towns of the State be reduced as it was impossible for such units to keep up the stringent membership requirements demanded by the law.**

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2 *Constitution and By-Laws of the Mokelumne Hill Rifles, page 15, Article X, on file Adjutant General's Office.

**Adjutant General Report, 1865-1867, page 7.