

History of the Mountain Rangers, California Militia 1864-1866

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MOUNTAIN RANGERS

(Continued)

Mountain Rangers, Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 6.

Location: Sierraville, Sierra County

Mustered in May 6, 1864

Mustered out August 28, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
F. F. Patterson, Captain	April 2, 1864	May 6, 1864
Thornton F. Batelle, First Lieut.	April 2, 1864	May 6, 1864
Thornton F. Batelle, Captain	May 24, 1865	June 7, 1865
Benjamin F. Lemmon, First Lieut.	May 24, 1865	June 7, 1865

Activities:

On April 2, 1864, a request was made to I. S. B. Davidson, Judge of Sierra County, by the residents of Sierraville for military protection from the Indians, as the hostiles in that section were causing considerable trouble for the people. Judge Davidson issued an order to Thornton F. Batelle authorizing him to open a book and call for volunteers to form a company of California State Militia. A notice was inserted in a publication known as the Sierra Democrat at Downieville for ten days' duration. In pursuance to the order a meeting was called for Saturday, February sixth, at six o'clock P. M. in Arms and Enscoe Hall, Sierraville where sixty-one men signed for enrollment in the service. On April second, a request was issued by Thornton F. Batelle to meet at Arms and Enscoe Hall at Sierraville for the purpose of electing officers. The meeting was held at the appointed time and the company was then designated as Mountain Rangers. F. F. Patterson was elected Captain and by motion of the chair G. N. Hurlbet was elected Secretary. Thornton F. Batelle and D. D. Newman were nominated for the office of First Lieutenant. Thornton F. Batelle received the greatest number of votes and was declared elected to that office.

A military company was greatly needed in the prevention of Indian depredations and also for other troubles arising in mining settlements, as law and order was not thought of or kept without some rigid military restrictions being enforced. When Captain F. F. Patterson, Commander of the Mountain Rangers at Sierra Valley, was informed of the trouble the Indians were making in the Surprise Valley district, he communicated immediately with Governor Low and tendered the services of his mounted company for three or six months if it was thought necessary or expedient. Captain Patterson fully realized the futility of attempting such a hazardous engagement with his

MOUNTAIN RANGERS (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

men on foot and agreed to provide horses for them.* The generous offer of the Captain was accepted by the Governor and the company's valiant service in the control of troublesome Indians was greatly appreciated.

Reference: Dead Office File, 1865, File 5

While nothing can be found to indicate the reason this company was mustered out of service, it is believed the early town population of Sierraville changed their place of residence, thereby decreasing the membership of the company to such an extent that it was inadvisable for it to remain a military unit and the Mountain Rangers were mustered out of Service, August 28, 1866.

G. W. Freeman, Captain (Re-elected 1865)	1861	May 16, 1864
James McCausland, First Lieutenant (Re-elected 1865)	1861	May 16, 1864
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Activities:

At a meeting in the Book School House, April 22, 1864, the citizens of Tonales organized a volunteer company to be designated as Lincoln Cavalry, Company M. The Captain and First Lieutenant respectively elected were: G. W. Freeman and James McCausland. Although a Bond was filed for the arms and equipment, September of that year found the unit still awaiting arrival. .ooo.

There are five Muster Rolls on record with the largest number of men. *Letter from Captain F. F. Patterson to Governor Low, February 19, 1865, State Archives, State Capitol. banded by the Board of Location and Colonization under the Military Law of 1866. This ruling materially reduced the militia as an economy measure. Only ten Cavalry companies were allowed to remain as a part of the State militia force and consequently the Lincoln Cavalry, Company M, was mustered out of service August 28, 1866.