

History of the Petaluma City Guard (Petaluma Union Mounted Rifles), California Militia/National Guard of California 1864-1868

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PETALUMA CITY GUARD

PETALUMA CITY GUARD (Continued)

Petaluma City Guard, First Infantry Regiment, Fifth Division, Second
Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 7

Location: Petaluma, Sonoma County

Mustered in November 23, 1864

Mustered out January 3, 1868

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Frank Bray, Captain	Nov. 23, 1864	Jan. 4, 1865
C. S. Thompson, First Lieut.	Nov. 23, 1864	Jan. 4, 1865
Frank Bray, Captain (Re-elected March 1, 1865)	_____	_____
William M. Brown, First Lieut.	March 1, 1865	March 11, 1865
Frank Bray, Captain (Re-elected March 6, 1867)	_____	_____
Peter Harrison, First Lieut.	March 6, 1867	May 7, 1867

Activities:

The Petaluma City Guard was organized November 23, 1864. The officers elected were Frank Bray, Captain; C. S. Thompson, First Lieutenant and William M. Brown and R. Percival, Second Lieutenants.

The Guard was a reorganization of the Petaluma Union Mounted Rifles, a cavalry unit formed August twentieth of that year. At that time N. O. Stafford was chosen Captain, Samuel Cassidy First Lieutenant, and John Steward and H. Stockwell, Second Lieutenants. There are no records however, to show whether its officers were commissioned.

Routine activities were not recorded until after the reorganization meeting of November twenty-third, three months later. Then a resolution was adopted that the name of the company be changed from Petaluma Union Mounted Rifles to Petaluma City Guard, and that the status be changed from Cavalry to Infantry. This act was approved by Brigadier General John H. Hewston, Jr. and on December twenty-third the company became an Infantry unit attached to the First Division, Second Brigade.

The corps had a membership of seventy-one non-commissioned officers and privates in January 1865. This was very gratifying to its commander Captain Bray. He commented in a Requisition for Ordnance to the effect that his command was in a prosperous condition and he anticipated a maximum membership at the next meeting. Arms were supplied with reasonable promptness but commissions were delayed, and the men waited more than two years for their uniforms. The company's secretary Peter Harrison, (later First Lieutenant) wrote to Headquarters August 29, 1866, complaining that the company had only one commissioned officer, and that no commissions had been received by his unit. The secretary went on to say that they had been organized over two

PETALUMA CITY GUARD (Continued)

Sutter Creek Guard, Fourth Brigade
Reference: Head Office File, Row 4, File 1

Activities: (continued)

years, and believed they were the only company of the National Guard that was not uniformed at the time. This letter probably hastened the matter of the uniforms, as they were shipped to Captain Bray by steamer from Sacramento the following February.

Though the Petaluma City Guard was a body of well drilled and loyal men, they evidently were not called upon to take part in any military expedition or encounter. Captain Bray held the rank of Captaincy for his company during its entire period of service and was in command of the company when the unit was mustered out of service January 3, 1868.

Charles Nickerson, Major General
THE OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
C. D. OSULLIVAN
Adjutant General
The Adjutant General

Activities:

A sufficient number of persons, all residents of Amador County, who were by law subject to military duty, filed with the County Judge their petition to form a volunteer militia company. Judge Turner appointed I. N. Randolph, a resident of Sutter Creek, Amador County, to open a book for the registration of such men that wished to organize the volunteer company. Judge Turner also set November 24, 1865, as the date for the meeting to organize, and named Sutter Hall, in the town of Sutter Creek, as the place to assemble. As there was not a full attendance on that day the meeting was postponed until November thirtieth at which time the Sutter Creek Guard was duly organized with Francis Tibbits as Captain. On December 8, 1865, the officers of the Sutter Creek Guard appeared before Judge Turner and posted a \$3,000 Penal Bond. A copy of the Bond was sent to the Adjutant General's Office and in return the Sutter Creek Guard received their arms and accoutrements.

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There is little or no information on record concerning this company's activities for the next two years. In 1866, the military system of the State was changed and the force was reduced to eighty companies in all. The State Legislature created a Board of Location and Organization having the power to reorganize or disband companies with the reference to military needs.* The Sutter Creek Guard was one of the many companies disbanded on July 16, 1866, the unit was honorably mustered out of the service of the State.**

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*California Statutes 1865-1866, Chapter DXLI, page 722.

**Historical Record Book, 4th Brigade 1864-1867, page 309.