

# **History of the Placerville Guard, California Militia 1862**

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PLACERVILLE GUARD

Franklin Guard, Company F, Third Infantry Regiment, Third Brigade  
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 7  
Location: Knight's Ferry, Stanislaus County

Placerville Guard, First Division, Fourth Brigade  
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 8  
Location: Placerville, Eldorado County  
Mustered in February 22, 1862  
Mustered out \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Abraham Shell, Captain	Mar. 22, 1862	Mar. 30, 1862

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Michael Shearer, Captain	Feb. 22, 1862	March 11, 1862
John D. Boop, First Lieut.	Feb. 22, 1862	March 11, 1862

Activities:

During February of 1862 a group of loyal citizens of Placerville wished to organize a company of volunteer infantry, and gained permission from Judge James Johnson of Eldorado County to hold a meeting for that purpose. This meeting was held February twenty-second with John F. Pinkham presiding and superintending the election of officers. M. K. Shearer was elected Captain of the company which had selected the name of Placerville Guard, and John D. Boop was elected First Lieutenant.

The commissions were sent to Captain Shearer on March thirteenth of the same year by Adjutant-General Kibbe. However, the General was unable to furnish the company with arms until a new supply should arrive, and it was uncertain as to when arms would be available. It is evident the men lost interest without the necessary equipment for drilling purposes and soon disbanded.

No muster rolls of the Placerville Guard were received by the Adjutant-General, therefore, there was no date recorded of the disbandment of the company. J. Patten was appointed and on March 18, 1862, the first meeting was held in Fisher's Hall, Knight's Ferry. The members decided to call their company the Franklin Guard. On March twenty-second, another meeting was held and the organization of the company was completed by the election of Abraham Shell as Captain and G. W. Arnold as First Lieutenant.

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On July second of that year the Franklin Guard received forty-five stand of muskets from the Sheriff of Tuolumne County through an order from Adjutant General Kibbe. Captain Shell complained to General Kibbe about the condition and age of the muskets, intimating they probably saw service in the Mexican War in 1848. Correspondence between the Captain and the Adjutant General's Office revealed that the muskets were intended for temporary use only.