

**History of the San Juan Guard
(Bridgeport Union Guard), California
Militia
1863-1866**

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SAN JUAN GUARD

Activities: (Continued) (BRIDGEPORT UNION GUARD)

San Juan Guard, Unattached (Bridgeport Union Guard, Company F*)

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 1.
 Location: North San Juan, Nevada County
 Mustered in June 16, 1863
 Mustered out July 30, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
R. A. Laughead, Captain (Resigned Nov. 24, 1863)	June 16, 1863	July 9, 1863
Francis Coffey, First Lieut.	June 16, 1863	July 9, 1863
Francis Coffey, Captain	Nov. 28, 1863	Dec. 26, 1863
T. G. Whitby, First Lieut.	Dec. 27, 1863	Jan. 19, 1864
Francis Coffey, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 1864)	_____	_____
T. G. Whitby, First Lieut. (Re-elected Nov. 1864)	_____	_____
Francis Coffey, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 28, 1865)	_____	_____
T. G. Whitby, First Lieut. (Re-elected Nov. 28, 1865)	_____	_____

Activities:

The San Juan Guard, unattached, was organized at North San Juan, Nevada County, pursuant to a petition signed by forty-one citizens residing within said County, and the petition was duly presented to the County Judge in accordance with the law. The organization meeting attended by fifty-four volunteers was held on June 16, 1863. The company was designated as the San Juan Guard, and mustered into the service of the State on the same date. Owing to clerical errors and a misunderstanding of the regulations by the company concerning the procedure in posting the required Bond, it was not until April 15, 1864, that uniforms and equipment were received. This delay and the consequent inactivity, combined with the fact that only about one-third of the members of the company were residents of North San Juan, the other two-thirds residing at French Corral and Sweetland, two nearby villages, caused considerable unpleasant-

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*Name of company changed to Bridgeport Union Guard, Company F, attached to the Fourth Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade, August 24, 1864.

SAN JUAN GUARD (Continued)

REDWOOD CAVALRY

Activities: (Continued)

ness. This state of affairs brought about a desire to change the name of the company and a petition was duly forwarded to the proper military authorities requesting that the name be changed from San Juan Guard to Bridgeport Union Guard. The petition met with the approval of Brigadier-General Howell commanding the Fourth Brigade and Colonel Hubbard, commanding the Fourth Infantry Battalion. An order was subsequently issued by the Adjutant-General under date of August 24, 1864, changing the name of the company as requested, and ordering that it be designated henceforth as Bridgeport Union Guard, Company F, Fourth Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade.* From this date the membership increased and on June 1, 1866, the company numbered seventy-one men.

At no time was this company especially active. Interest in the organization gradually diminished until on July 30, 1866, it was discontinued and the company mustered out of service.**

H. M. Leonard, Captain	Nov. 14, 1863
(Re-elected Nov. 18, 1864)	
Eben Vandyne, First Lieut.	Nov. 18, 1864
M. W. Blabos, Captain	Dec. 2, 1865
Eben Vandyne, First Lieut.	Jan. 3, 1866
(Re-elected Dec. 2, 1865)	

Activities:

During the troubled years of the Civil War, volunteer military companies sprang up all over the State. The little town of McCartysville, Santa Clara County, was no exception for on June 18, 1863, the Redwood Cavalry, under the command of Captain McCall was organized there.

This company was a credit to the County, being a splendidly drilled unit and having in Captain McCall a very capable officer. The Redwood Cavalry was ever ready to answer the call of the authorities to suppress any Secession movements displayed in Santa Clara County.

With the close of the Civil War, the excitement connected with being a member of a military company soon waned. Many members

*Order on file Adjutant General's Office

**Adjutant General Report, 1865-1866, page 93.

Redwood Cavalry, which was compiled with on August 10, 1866.