

# **History of the Stockton City Guard, California Militia/National Guard of California 1864-1868**

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STOCKTON CITY GUARD

STOCKTON CITY GUARD (Continued)

Stockton City Guard, Third Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 5

Location: Stockton, San Joaquin County

Mustered in May 5, 1864

Mustered out October 12, 1868

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Nelson Orr, Captain	May 5, 1864	May 19, 1864
C. H. Covell, First Lieut.	May 5, 1864	May 19, 1864
C. H. Covell, Captain	Feb. 3, 1865	Mar. 1, 1865
John Nichols, First Lieut.	Feb. 3, 1865	May 1, 1865
John Nichols, Captain	July 13, 1866	Oct. 24, 1866
Eugene Lehe, First Lieut.	July 13, 1866	Oct. 24, 1866
Eugene Lehe, Captain	Feb. 27, 1867	Mar. 13, 1867
H. C. Shaw, First Lieut.	Feb. 27, 1867	Mar. 13, 1867
Lyman Elliott, Captain	Aug. 12, 1867	Sept. 17, 1867
H. C. Shaw, First Lieut.		
(Re-elected Aug. 12, 1867)		

Activities:

Upon receiving a petition from the required number of persons, requesting that he appoint some suitable person to superintend the meeting to form a volunteer military company, H. B. Underhill, County Judge of Stockton, San Joaquin County, ordered F. F. Baldwin to open a book to receive the names of persons volunteering to form the company. On May 5, 1864, in Stockton, the Stockton City Guard was duly organized and sworn into the service of the State under the command of Captain Nelson Orr.

There was only a meager source of information concerning the Stockton City Guard activities on record. In 1866, however, the military system of the State was changed. The organized militia troops were to be known as the National Guard, and the military force was not to exceed eighty companies in all. The State Legislature created a Board of Location and Organization to have the power to reorganize or muster companies out of service with reference to the existing military needs.\* The Board on July 13, 1866, recommended the Stockton City Guard to be reorganized and again mustered into service as an unattached company of the Third Brigade.

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

Reference: Stockton City Guard  
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 6.  
Stockton City Guard, 1867-1868

STOCKTON CITY GUARD

STOCKTON CITY GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

On May 17, 1867, Captain Eugene Lehe, who was then in command of the company, wrote to Adjutant-General George S. Evans stating that about one half of his company did not turn out for drill, and he had resolved "to get rid of them." In his capacity as Captain he intended to collect their dues and fines, and if they did not pay voluntarily he would be forced to use a Justice of the Peace, to aid him in making the necessary collections. The Captain felt this procedure might reduce the Stockton City Guard to forty members or less, but he would endeavor to rebuild the company on the standard required by law with men he could depend on.

During the next few months there was a steady decrease in the membership of the Stockton City Guard, and Captain Lehe was unable to fulfill his promise of rebuilding the company for at the Brigade drill held in Stockton on September 9, 1867, the Stockton City Guard paraded with only thirty-seven men in all.

With the passing of the new Military Law in 1868, which reduced the number of companies to sixty the Board of Location and Organization was again called upon to muster various units out of service.\* The Stockton City Guard due to its demoralized condition was no longer needed. Therefore, Adjutant-General James M. Allen, issued Special Order No. 53, which instructed Brigadier-General W. A. Davies, commander of the Third Brigade to muster the Stockton City Guard out of service which was done October 12, 1868.\*\*

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\*Adjutant General Report, 1867-1869, page 8.

\*\*Adjutant General Report, 1867-1869, page 154.