

History of the Suisun Cavalry, California Militia and Suisun Light Dragoons, National Guard of California 1863-1868

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SUISUN CAVALRY
(SUISUN LIGHT DRAGOONS)

Suisun Cavalry, Company D, First Cavalry Regiment, Second Brigade
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 5.
 Location: Suisun City, Solano County.
 Mustered in May 11, 1863.
 Mustered out June 9, 1868.

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
M. M. Richardson, Captain	May 11, 1863	May 26, 1863
J. H. Marston, First Lieut.	May 11, 1863	May 26, 1863
J. H. Marston, Captain	Nov. 7, 1863	Dec. 3, 1863
W. W. Allen, First Lieut.	Nov. 7, 1863	Dec. 3, 1863
W. W. Allen, Captain	Feb. 20, 1864	Mar. 1, 1864
D. C. Rumsey, First Lieut.	Feb. 20, 1864	Mar. 1, 1864
D. C. Rumsey, Captain	Nov. 4, 1865	Dec. 13, 1865
G. Wright, First Lieut.	Nov. 4, 1865	Dec. 13, 1865
G. F. Taylor, Captain	Nov. 3, 1866	Nov. 14, 1866
J. B. Shields, First Lieut.	Nov. 3, 1866	Nov. 14, 1866
G. F. Taylor, Captain (reelected 1877)	_____	_____
J. B. Shields, First Lieut. (reelected 1877)	_____	_____
D. C. Rumsey, Captain (reelected 1868)	_____	_____
Gilbert Wright, First Lieut. (reelected 1868)	_____	_____

Activities:

The Suisun Cavalry, Company D, was organized May 11, 1863, with headquarters at Suisun City, Solano County. The arms consisting of sabres and pistols were not received until November 19, 1863. This delay caused Captain Richardson much concern as his company was losing interest, and he feared as a result the unit's ranks would be greatly reduced. A Bond of \$3,000 was filed to cover the costs of arms and accoutrements.

This company had high military ambitions and were a credit to their officers by their demonstration of efficiency during the spring Encampment of 1865 at Suisun City. There were several companies and about two hundred and fifty members took part in this affair which was held for the purpose of drill and military instruction.

Under the Military Law of 1866, the corps was reorganized December 28, 1866, and the name was changed to Suisun Light

SUISUN CAVALRY (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

Dragoons, Company D, First Cavalry, Second Brigade, National Guard of California.

Although an efficient organization, the Suisun Light Dragoons was considered unnecessary for the community and when the Legislature reduced the number of companies in the State in May 1868, the unit was ordered disbanded and mustered out of the service by Special Order No. 30, June 9, 1868. The arms returned to the State were reported in good condition.*

From a note on the Muster Out Roll by John Hill (Major and Inspector) it is evident Captain Rumsey resented the disbandment notice. When the disbandment order was received, the Captain immediately left the city without reporting to his company the contents of the order relative to the necessity of the unit being present at the armory for final inspection by the Mustering out Officer. It was only through Lieutenant Wright's efforts and co-operation that the men and equipment were finally brought together for disbandment inspection.

William Neal, Captain (Re-elected Aug. 1868)		
Samuel Crosson, Captain (Re-elected May 4, 1868)	-oOo-	
William Neal, First Lieutenant (Re-elected May 4, 1868)		
John S. Hale, Captain Gerald Keegan, First Lieut.	Mar. 15, 1869	Mar. 30, 1869
John S. Hale, Captain (Re-elected Mar. 18, 1871)		
Gerald Keegan, First Lieut. (Re-elected Mar. 18, 1871)		
Samuel Crosson, Captain (Resigned Jan. 27, 1873)	April 8, 1873	April 11, 1873
Gerald Keegan, First Lieut. (Re-elected 1873) (Resigned April 1, 1873)		

*Adjutant General Report, 1867-1869, page 8, 142.