

History of the Union Guard (Quincy, Plumas County), California Militia 1863-1864

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UNION GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued) UNION GUARD

In reply, the following letter dated June 8, 1863, Sacramento,
 Union Guard, Fifth Brigade by General William C. Kibbe.
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 6
 Location: Quincy, Plumas County
 Mustered in June 20, 1863
 Mustered out: _____

Yours of the 4th date received. The County Judge has nothing to do with the appointment of officers. All

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Henry Huntington, Captain	June 20, 1863	July 9, 1863
B. B. Stevens, First Lieut.	June 20, 1863	July 9, 1863

Activities:

Quincy and the surrounding territory felt the need of a military organization for the protection of its residents from attacks by hostile Indians. However, judging from a letter to General Kibbe, dated June 4, 1863, and signed by T. B. Shannon before such an organization could be formulated, dissension arose between the Union and Secessionist forces of the county. Quote:

"Friend Kibbe: (Signed) Wm. C. Kibbe, Adjutant General"

There is a company forming here, of the true and reliable Union men. If the County Judge has anything to do relative to the appointment of the officers it will not do, because he is a Copperhead* of the worst kind. Make no appointments, do nothing regarding the matter till I see you at Sacramento about 17th Inst.

Yours truly,

T. B. Shannon"

*During the Civil War, the term "Copperhead" was applied to residents of Northern States who considered it impossible to overcome the Confederates and were earnestly in favor of peace and consequently opposed to the war policy of the President and Congress. The term "Copperhead" originated in the Autumn of 1862, and its use spread throughout the North because of a fancied resemblance of the peace party to the venomous Copperhead snake which strikes without warning. The more zealous advocates of peace wore badges made of heads cut from copper one cent pieces, thinking that such a display emphasized their attitude more fully--Encyclopedia Britannica, Volume 6, page 409.

UNION GUARD (Continued)

Activities: (Continued)

In reply, the following letter dated June 8, 1863, Sacramento, California, was written by General William C. Kibbe.

"Hon. T. B. Shannon

"Sir:

Dear Friend:

I herewith forward to your office my resignation
Yours of the 4th date received. The County Judge has nothing to do with the appointment of officers. All he may do is to appoint a suitable person to preside at the election of officers. I will send you a copy of the Law. Have never permitted a military organization under the State laws since this Rebellion broke out without first inquiring into the political status of the officers and members of such company and when found to be unsatisfactory (as has often occurred) the whole matter has been laid on the table. If the County Judge will appoint a good Union man to preside, there will be no harm in the organization you speak of, at least if the members are all right.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. C. Kibbe, Adjutant General"

There were no further activities of this company recorded in the Adjutant General's Report and the Union Guard was dis-
On the first of May 1864, Brigadier General John Bidwell, commanding the Fifth Brigade, California Militia, appointed John R. Buckbee of Quincy as Inspector to preside at the annual meeting of the Union Guard to be held on the fifth day of May for the purpose of electing officers of the company to serve during the succeeding year. Mr. Buckbee complied with the instructions of General Bidwell but upon calling the roll it was found that but seven members of the company were present. This number being insufficient for the transaction of the business for which the meeting was called, an adjournment was taken until May seventh. Again only the same number (seven) responded, and after a consultation of those present, it was decided to make one more attempt to hold an election. First Lieutenant Stevens ordered a meeting to be held on the twenty-first of May for the election of officers and the transaction of such other business as might properly come before the meeting. Due notice of the time and place of the meeting was given and published as By-Laws required, but only nine members responded to roll call. Inspector Buckbee, thereupon, reported to the Adjutant General that after three unsuccessful attempts a sufficient number of members could not be assembled and that in his opinion it was useless to further attempt to keep up the organization in Quincy as the company was then practically disbanded.

Activities: (Continued)

Under date of May 27, 1864, Lieutenant B. B. Stevens, Acting Commander of the Union Guard, wrote to Adjutant General G. S. Evans the following letter:

"Sir:

I herewith forward to your office my resignation as First Lieutenant of the Union Guard of Plumas County. My object in doing this is that the company cannot be kept up to the minimum standard required by law. And at the meeting held this day, after two weeks' notice of the order given to the company to meet, but eight men responded to the call. The arms furnished to this company by the State are in good order, the number now in the armory being thirty-eight, two being stolen, which are held subject to your order.

Very respectfully
(Signed) Your obedient servant,
B. B. Stevens
First Lieutenant, Union Guard,
Plumas County.

There were no further activities of this company recorded in the Adjutant General's Report and the Union Guard was disbanded under the name Union Corps during the year 1864-1865.*

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A volunteer company was organized, October 14, 1861, under the title of Siskiyou Light Guard with George W. Chase as Captain and A. E. Raynes as First Lieutenant. This group of volunteers existed for two years before they were re-organized and mustered into the State service as Siskiyou Light Guard, Company D, Fifth Infantry of the regular militia.* Desiring to become a re-organized corps of the State Militia, the regular steps were taken of publishing the notice for ten days in both the Yreka Semi-Weekly

*Adjutant General Report 1864-1865, page 655.
Under the Act of Legislature of April 24, 1862, and amendments thereto, the County Judge A. W. Rosborough on June 5, 1863, appointed P. Wadaworth as Inspector to enroll members for the volunteer company, and called a meeting to be held in the Court House of Yreka City at four o'clock P.M. on Saturday, June 20, 1863.

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*History of Siskiyou County, California - D. J. Stewart & Company, Oakland, 1891, page 191.