

**History of the Washington Light
Artillery (Washington Light Battery),
California Militia
1863-1866**

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WASHINGTON LIGHT ARTILLERY

(WASHINGTON LIGHT BATTERY)

Washington Light Artillery*, unattached, Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 8

Location: Napa, Napa County

Mustered in July 31, 1863

Mustered out August 17, 1866

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Nathan McCoombs, Captain	July 31, 1863	Aug. 25, 1863
Nathaniel A. Green, First Lieut.	July 31, 1863	Aug. 25, 1863
Nathaniel A. Green, Captain	Aug. 1, 1864	Aug. 15, 1864
Abram W. Norton, First Lieut.	Aug. 1, 1864	Aug. 15, 1864
Abram W. Norton, Captain	Aug. 7, 1865	Aug. 23, 1865
James H. Gooch, First Lieut.	Aug. 7, 1865	Aug. 23, 1865

Activities:

The Washington Light Artillery was organized at Napa, Napa County, July 31, 1863. An election of officers was held at the meeting and Nathan McCoombs was elected Captain and Nathaniel A. Green, First Lieutenant. A Bond was filed January 18, 1864, and the arms and accoutrements were received February ninth of the same year.

Owing to the lack of details on file regarding the activities of the corps, it is assumed the unit was the direct wish of the residents and citizens who deemed military protection necessary for their safety and well-being due to the ever felt fear of Indian uprisings and consequent hostilities. Also the Secessionists were numerous in the country at that time and caused the authorities much concern.

Although efficient, the Washington Light Artillery was mustered out of the State Service August 17, 1866, under the Military Law of that year, which materially reduced the number of companies in the State. Brigadier-General George S. Evans recommended this Law maintaining that smaller companies, located inland where protection was unnecessary, and units situated in the mining districts where the population was transient, making it impossible for them to keep their organizations up to the stringent requirements of the law, should be mustered out of the State Service.**

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*Also referred to on the Muster Rolls and in correspondence as Washington Light Battery.

**Adjutant General Report 1865-1867, page 7.