

History of the Woodland Guard, California Militia 1863-1867

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WOODLAND GUARD

Woodland Guard, unattached, Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 6

Location: Woodland, Yolo County

Mustered in May 18, 1863

Mustered out December 31, 1867

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Charles W. Lewis, Captain	May 18, 1863	May 27, 1863
M. D. Raum, First Lieut. (Resigned Oct. 5, 1863)	May 18, 1863	May 27, 1863
Charles W. Lewis, Captain (Re-elected 1864)	_____	_____
T. J. Dexter, First Lieut.	Jan. 7, 1864	Mar. 1, 1864
E. G. Hall, Captain	May 6, 1865	May 30, 1865
Samuel Shryock, First Lieut.	May 6, 1865	May 30, 1865
E. G. Hall, Captain (Re-elected 1866)	_____	_____
C. H. Gray, First Lieut.	July 4, 1866	Aug. 20, 1866

Activities:

The Woodland Guard was organized in Woodland, Yolo County, April 30, 1863, and the officers elected were Charles W. Lewis, Captain and M. D. Raum, First Lieutenant.

In June 1863, the required Bond was posted and the following March another Bond amounting to \$2,430 was filed to cover the cost of clothing for the unit. Captain Hall was much perturbed over the loss of a uniform and arms by a new recruit who left the County shortly after joining the unit. In a letter to the Brigadier-General, March 13, 1865, relative to what course to pursue in the matter, Captain Hall's words are quoted, "The man we care nothing for, but the State property we want."

The County Seat was moved from Washington to Woodland in 1863, which was the cause of much social activity in the town and the Guard added greatly to the color and dignity on this occasion. The Guard under command of Captain Lewis attended the Encampment at Camp Kibbe, September 19, 1863. Their uniforms consisting of the regulation caps, blue blouses, and dark trousers.

As a result of a special meeting held January 5, 1864, a Resolution was signed by the Commissioned Officers and members of the Woodland Guard requesting that an order be issued attaching the company to the Fourth Regiment under Colonel E. B. Hamilton's command. The request was not granted. On June 30, 1866, the corps was again reorganized, and C. W. Hall was elected Captain.

WOODLAND GUARD (continued)

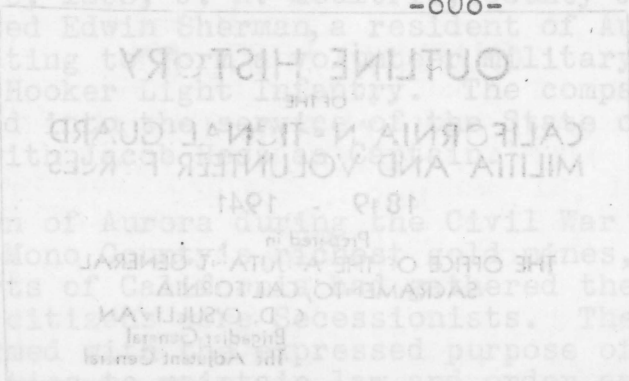
Activities: (Continued)

Although the Guard had seventy-three members on the rolls during the year 1866, their interest in Military affairs waned. It is assumed that due to the fact that their assistance was no longer necessary in aiding the civil authorities to maintain law and order, the Woodland Guard was mustered out of service December 31, 1867. The arms and accoutrements were returned to the State, April 30, 1868.

Jacob Hess, Captain	May 18, 1863	May 27, 1863
George W. Donnell, First Lieut.	May 18, 1863	May 27, 1863

Activities:

On May 2, 1863, J. A. Moultrie, County Judge of Mono County appointed Edwin Sherman, a resident of Aurora, to superintend the meeting of the Hooker Light Infantry company designated as the Hooker Light Infantry. The company was duly formed and mustered into the State of California, May 18, 1863, with



The town of Aurora during the Civil War was the location of one of the military lines, and renegades from all parts of the State were there. Also many of the town's citizens were volunteers. The Hooker Light Infantry was formed for the purpose of aiding the civil authorities in maintaining law and order among the residents.

In 1863, due to the readjusting of the boundary lines of the territory of Nevada, it was found that the town of Aurora was three miles on the Nevada side.* The Hooker Light Infantry was dropped from the California roster, but allowed to keep the arms in their possession. In order that the State of California would suffer no loss of property, Adjutant General William Kibbe wrote to the Governor of Nevada in 1864, suggesting that when Nevada received their arms from their State Government, they turn over to California the same number that was retained by the Hooker Light Infantry.**

There was no further record of the company, and it is assumed that in the early part of 1864, the Hooker Light Infantry was officially mustered out of California service.

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*Mono County News, published -2-78, Page 49.

**Adjutant General Report 1864-1867, Page 15.