

# **History of the Placer Cadets, California Militia 1865-1866**

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PLACER CADETS

Washington Rifles, Second Battalion  
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 2

Placer Cadets, Company F, First Infantry Battalion, Fourth Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 3, File 4

Location: Iowa Hill, Placer County

Mustered in APRIL 1 - 1865

Mustered out July 28, 1866

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
W. D. Lawrence, Captain	April 1, 1865	April 7, 1865
Kit Queen, First Lieutenant	April 1, 1865	April 7, 1865

Activities:

The Placer Cadets was a company of volunteer militia organized at Iowa Hill, Placer County. Notices for a meeting were posted by County Judge H. Fellow, on March 18, 1865, in response to a group of patriotic citizens who wished to organize such a unit. This company appears on record in the Adjutant General Report of 1864, although there was no conclusive evidence of the Placer Cadets' existence until 1865 according to the organization papers on file in the Adjutant General's Office. The meeting was held April 1, 1865, and the company duly sworn in and an election of officers was held. W. D. Lawrence was elected Captain and Kit Queen, First Lieutenant of the Placer Cadets.

The arms and accoutrements issued to this company on May 13, 1865 were formally used by Company D of the Union Corps, and transferred to the Cadets. The members showed great interest in their weekly drills and wished to have a company that would make a good impression at both social affairs and in active service, if they should be called upon.

These Cadets were disappointed when the Militia Law of 1866, required all small units of militia to disband. Captain Lawrence wrote to the Adjutant-General asking if the company could purchase the arms and accoutrements through the government and form an independent company of volunteers. Evidently their wishes were not granted as the company was mustered out of service on July 28, 1866.

\*Copy of original Roll on file with organization papers, Adjutant General's Office.