

# **History of the Eureka Guard (Eureka), National Guard of California 1879-1890**

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EUREKA GUARD

Eureka Guard, Unattached, Sixth Brigade  
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 4, File 8  
 Location: Eureka, Humboldt County  
 Mustered in March 15, 1879  
 Mustered out May 13, 1890

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Alexander Campbell, Captain	March 15, 1879	April 5, 1879
James Brown, First Lieutenant	March 15, 1879	April 5, 1879
James Brown, Captain	Dec. 16, 1879	Jan. 2, 1880
William P. Hannah, First Lieut.	Dec. 16, 1879	Jan. 2, 1880
John W. Freese, Captain	Dec. 28, 1881	March 7, 1882
William P. Hannah, First Lieut. (Re-elected Dec. 28, 1881)	_____	_____
J. T. Keleher, Captain	Feb. 28, 1883	March 26, 1883
William P. Hannah, First Lieut. (Re-elected Feb. 28, 1883)	_____	_____
A. W. Hanna, Captain	Feb. 12, 1885	March 11, 1885
F. A. Cutler, First Lieut.	Feb. 18, 1885	April 12, 1885
John L. Chichton, Captain	May 4, 1887	_____
Daniel J. Foley, First Lieut	Feb. 8, 1888	_____

Activities:

The application of the citizens and residents of Eureka, Humboldt County, desirous of organizing a company of Infantry was approved by Governor William Irwin. Brigadier General J. G. Wall, commander of the Sixth Brigade, appointed Major P. H. Ryan, to organize the company according to the provisions of the militia code. The company designated and known as the Eureka Guard was organized in Eureka, Humboldt County, March 15, 1879, under the command of Captain Alexander Campbell, and mustered into State Service as an unattached company of the Sixth Brigade.

\*Adjutant General Report, 1885-1886, page 124.

\*\*Adjutant General Report, 1880, page 4.

EUREKA GUARD (Continued)

## Activities: (Continued)

Prior to the establishment of this company, the Sixth Brigade had no organization save the staff which rendered service in collecting and returning arms of some of the disbanded independent companies scattered through the northern counties. When the Eureka Guard was organized in 1879, they had for eleven years the unique position of being the only company in the Sixth Brigade of the California National Guard.

The members of the newly organized Eureka Guard drilled five nights a week, and in a short period of time they were able to go through their manual of arms with a snap and precision that would have done credit to a much older company.

In 1885, for the first time in the history of the State, the Legislature made an appropriation for a division or general Encampment of the entire National Guard, which was to be held in Santa Cruz, California, from August fifteenth to twenty-third. The Eureka Guard was one of the units composing the First Provisional Regiment, and won the praise of the commanding officers by their soldierly appearance and splendid drilling.\*

During the next few years there is only a meager source of information concerning this company's activities. On May 13, 1890, when a new Battalion of two companies was formed in the Sixth Brigade, the Eureka Guard was designated as Company A, of the Tenth Infantry Battalion, Sixth Brigade.\*\* For further information regarding this company refer to Company A, Tenth Infantry Battalion, Sixth Brigade.

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\*Adjutant General Report, 1885-1886, page 124.

\*\*Adjutant General Report, 1890, page 4.

\*\*Historic Spots in California by Hero Eugene Rensch and Ethel Grace Rensch - 1922, page 107, 108