

History of the Gilroy Guard, California Militia 1863-1866

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GILROY GUARD

Gilroy Guard, Company E, Second Brigade
Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 5
Location: Gilroy, Santa Clara County
Mustered in November 7, 1863
Mustered out September 1, 1866

<u>Commanding Officers</u>		<u>Commission</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	
John H. Adams, Captain	Nov. 7, 1863	Dec. 22, 1863
J. M. Barthelow, First Lieut.	Nov. 7, 1863	Dec. 22, 1863
John H. Adams, Captain (Re-elected Jan. 7, 1865)	_____	_____
William O. Barker, First Lieut.	Jan. 7, 1865	Jan. 30, 1865
John H. Adams, Captain (Re-elected Nov. 11, 1865)	_____	_____
William O. Barker, First Lieut. (Re-elected Nov. 11, 1865)	_____	_____

Activities:

On October 17, 1863, a petition signed by fifty-four citizens, residents of Santa Clara County, asking permission to organize a military company was presented to the Honorable J. N. Senter, Judge of the County Court for said County. The request was granted and the Court appointed John A. Perkins to conduct a meeting of the petitioners, for the purpose of organizing a company and electing officers. The meeting was held November seventh of that year and the unit was mustered into the State Militia on that date, designated as the Gilroy Guard.

The history of this company was short and uneventful. The enrollment increased at first and on April 18, 1864, there were sixty-three officers and men enrolled. However, from that date the membership diminished gradually until in August 1866 there were but twenty-seven officers and men. On September 1, 1866, pursuant to Order No. 2 issued from General Headquarters, the Gilroy Guard was mustered out of the State service and disbanded.

Drill and target practice and a public parade when opportunity afforded, were the only activities of the organization during the years 1864 and 1865. In 1866 the State Guard, then number-