

History of the Los Angeles Guard National Guard of California 1874-1880

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LOS ANGELES GUARD

LOS ANGELES GUARD (Continued)

Los Angeles Guard, unattached, First Brigade
 Reference: Dead Office File, Row 5, File 1
 Location: Los Angeles, Los Angeles County
 Mustered in September 8, 1874
 Mustered out May 1, 1881

Commanding Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Commission</u>
Louis J. Sacriste, Captain (Resigned April 14, 1875)	Sept. 8, 1874	Oct. 1, 1874
Dennis F. Fitzpatrick, First Lieut.	Sept. 8, 1874	Oct. 1, 1874
James Bartley, Captain (Resigned Oct. 16, 1876)	June 25, 1875	April 19, 1876
Thomas Boland, First Lieut.	June 25, 1875	April 19, 1876
P. M. Darcy, Captain	Jan. 3, 1877	Feb. 3, 1877
James Gorman, First Lieut.	June 6, 1877	Feb. 6, 1878
P. M. Darcy, Captain (Re-elected June 4, 1879)		
William R. Stephenson, First Lieut.	June 4, 1879	July 14, 1879

Activities:

On May 21, 1873, a petition to Adjutant General L. H. Foote was filed by Louis J. Sacriste and forty other citizens of Los Angeles, requesting permission to organize an independent unit of the National Guard of California. It was on September 8, 1874, before the authorities were ready to muster in this new company at which date the Los Angeles Guard was duly organized, and Louis J. Sacriste was elected Captain and Dennis F. Fitzpatrick, First Lieutenant.

Captain Sacriste had served during the Civil War rising from Corporal to the rank of Major in the Federal Army, and had been wounded once while in action. He was honorably discharged when the Federal forces were reduced to peace time quotas. A large percentage of the members of the Los Angeles Guard were honorably discharged soldiers of the Civil War.

The company had been in existence about six months when Captain Sacriste moved from Los Angeles to San Bernardino, but previous to the change of residence the Captain had been a candidate for the office of Mayor of Los Angeles, which undoubtedly caused the entrance of political feeling into the ranks of the unit. This ill feeling led to formation of cliques within the company, and after the election of P. M. Darcy to the Captaincy it increased and finally became so intense that on the evening of March 14, 1879, Captain Darcy assaulted Corporal Wallace while in the armory. The Captain was arrested charged with battery and after a jury trial in the Los Angeles County Justice Court,

LOS ANGELES GUARD (Continued)

Reference: (No material on file in Adjutant General's Office.)

Location: Chico, Butte County

Mustered in May 18, 1875

Activities: (continued)

was fined and upon paying his fine was dismissed. Upon the completion of the civil trial of Captain Darcy, First Lieutenant Gorman filed charges against him, charging the Captain with conduct unbecoming an officer of the National Guard; but no record of a Court Martial could be found on file.

On November 24, 1880, the Adjutant General ordered Major J. A. Dinsmore to hold an inspection of the Los Angeles Guard. Apparently the Major found so much dissention and ill feeling in this unit that its continuance as a Volunteer Militia Company would be folly, so on May 1, 1881, the Los Angeles Guard was mustered out of service leaving Los Angeles without any military unit subject to the command of the National Guard, to protect its citizens against Indian depredations.

Hiran T. Batchelder, Captain	Dec. 22, 1879	Jan. 18, 1880
W. R. Williams, First Lieut.	Dec. 22, 1879	Jan. 18, 1880
Hiran T. Batchelder, Captain		
(Reelected 1881)		
W. R. Williams, First Lieut.		
(Reelected 1881)		
H. T. Batchelder, Captain		
(Reelected 1883)		
W. R. Williams, First Lieut.		
(Reelected 1883)		
H. T. Batchelder, Captain		
(Reelected 1885)		
C. S. Coggins, First Lieut.	July 11, 1885	Aug. 7, 1885
R. M. Jones, Captain	March 26, 1887	May 23, 1887
C. B. Swain, First Lieut.	March 26, 1887	May 23, 1887
C. B. Swain, Captain	March 26, 1889	June 7, 1889
J. H. Gunley, First Lieut.	March 26, 1889	June 7, 1889

Activities:

The Chico Guard was organized and mustered into the service of the State, May 18, 1875. William T. Turner, Captain, and Hiran T. Batchelder, First Lieutenant, were the elected officers. The unit was armed with Springfield Rifles, caliber 45 (breech-loaders) and uniformed in accordance with the military regulations. This new company gave every indication of becoming one.

*Chico Guard, unattached, designated Company A, Eighth Infantry Battalion, Feb. 15, 1890. Adjutant General's Report 1890, page 4.